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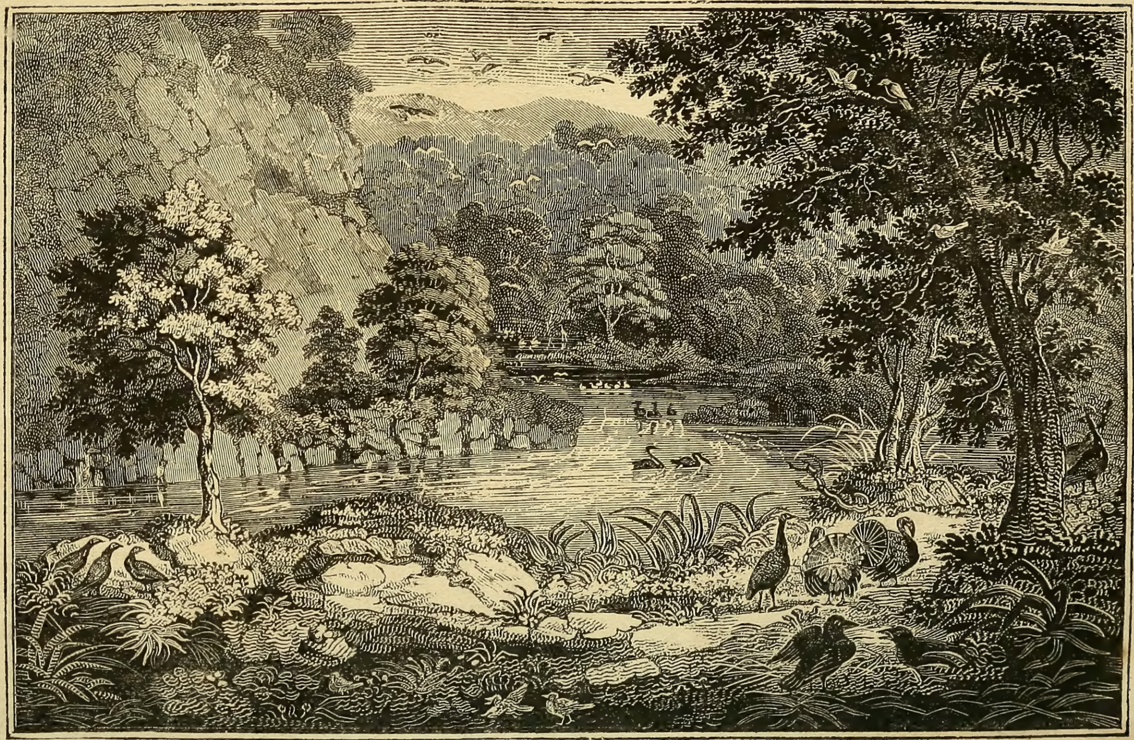

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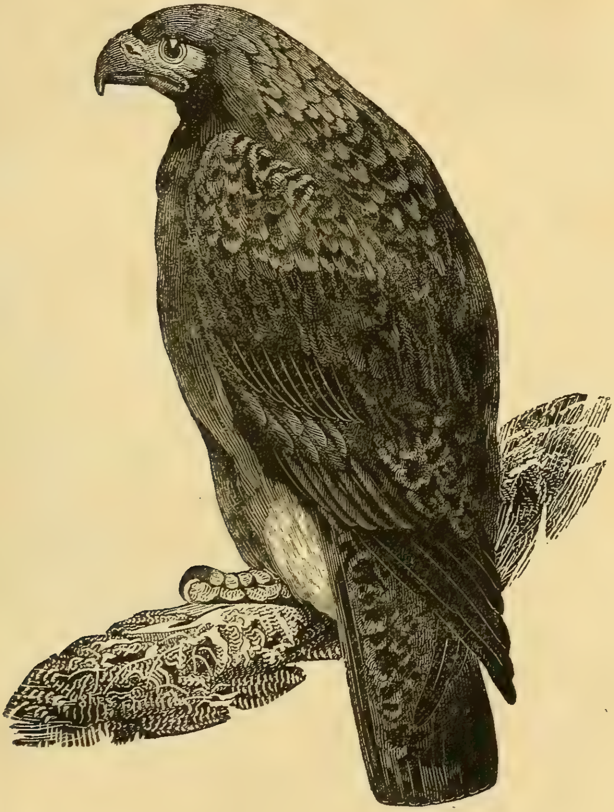
Ornithologia.

PART THE FIRST.

BRITISH AND EUROPEAN BIRDS.



FALCO CHRYSAËTOS:

OR,

GOLDEN-EAGLE.

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1829

ORNITHOLOGIA,

OR

THE BIRDS:

A POEM, IN TWO PARTS,

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION TO THEIR NATURAL HISTORY;

AND

COPIOUS NOTES;

BY JAMES JENNINGS,

AUTHOR OF

Observations on the Dialects of the West of England, &c. &c.

"They whisper Truths in Reason's ear,
If human pride will stoop to hear."
LORD ERSKINE.

Quel bien manque à vos vœux interessants oiseaux?
Vous possédez les airs, et la terre, et les eaux;
Sous la feuille tremblante un zéphyr vous éveille;
Vos couleurs charment l'œil, et vos accents l'oreille.
DE LILLE.

SECOND EDITION,
WITH ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

LONDON:
SHERWOOD, GILBERT, AND PIPER,
23, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1829.

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COLLECTION

J. AND C. ADLARD, PRINTERS,
BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE.

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1829

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

The favourable reception of ORNITHOLOGIA, *especially by those who are judges of the science, has induced the author to revise it, and to make such additions to it which the late rapid progress of* ORNITHOLOGY *has rendered necessary: those additions will be found in the following* PRELIMINARY NOTICES; *to which, as the author has no wish to shrink from the closest scrutiny into the merits of his work, he has appended a few* EXPLANATORY OBSERVATIONS *on some objections that have been, either carelessly, ignorantly, or wantonly, made to it: with a liberal and discerning public he has no doubt of the result.*

Since the appearance of ORNITHOLOGIA, in 1827, the the public attention has been more than ordinarily excited to *Animal Natural History*. The *Zoological Society* is mentioned in page 94. Its collection of living animals in the *Regent's Park* is now, under suitable regulation, open to the public at a very trifling expense, namely, one shilling each person. The crowds that daily visit the *Gardens* are almost innumerable. They are, at once, a fashionable, an agreeable, an amusing, and instructive lounge; and far exceed, in exciting interest, any thing which could have been previously anticipated concerning such an establishment. The members of the Society exceed, at the present time, (September 1829,) 1300. The Museum in Bruton Street contains 600 specimens of *Mammalia;* 400 specimens of *Birds;* 1000 of *Reptiles* and *Fishes;* 1000 of *Testacea* and *Crustacea;* and 30,000 *Insects.* The *Gardens* were opened to the public in June 1828, and with the *Museum,* from that period, in one year, had been visited by 112,226 persons. In the Gardens are between five and six hundred *living Quadrupeds* and *Birds.* Among the curious birds are the following: *Curassows,* the *Guan,* the *Crowned Crane, Black and White Storks, Spoonbills, Herons* and *Bitterns, Parrots, Pelicans, Emus,* an *Ostrich,* the *Gannet,* the *Shag;* various species of the *Duck* tribe; *Tame, Wild,* and *Black Swans;* various species of the *Goose* tribe; *Gulls;* many varieties of *Pigeons* and *Domestic Fowls;* the *Condor;* the *Griffon Vulture;* various *Eagles;* curious *Owls;* numerous species of the *Falcon* tribe; *Pheasants; Partridges;* and many singing *Birds,* &c. See the *Guide to the Zoological Gardens,* drawn up by N. A. VIGORS and W. J. BRODERIP, Esqrs.

It may be also useful to state, that, although this Society were reluctantly compelled to postpone the attempt to become more directly and practically useful, by experiments in the breeding and domestication of animals, yet that they are, now, about to direct their attention to those important objects. The Regent's Park not being calculated for the purpose, they have engaged a farm, with suitable offices, &c. of about thirty-three acres of land, in a beautiful situation under the wall of Richmond Park, nine miles from Hyde Park Corner. Here it is intended that their experiments for breeding and domesticating animals are to be made. The animals are to include not only *Quadrupeds* and *Birds,* but also *Fish.*

Besides the work of WILSON on the *Birds of America,* noticed in page 90, one now in course of publication, in this country, by Mr. AUDUBON, consisting of Drawings of the same size as the Birds, must here be mentioned. It is entitled *Birds of America, from Drawings made during a residence of twenty-five years in the United States and its Territories. Ten numbers* have already appeared. The Plates are *three feet three inches long, by two feet two inches wide:* "a size," says Mr. SWAINSON, in his notice of the work, in the *Magazine of Natural History*, "which exceeds any thing of the kind I have ever seen or heard of; on this vast surface, every bird is represented in its full dimensions;" the whole are also correctly coloured, according to nature.

In allusion to *two ornithological narratives* by Mr. Audubon, printed in one of the Scotch Journals, Mr. Swainson says, "There is a freshness and originality about these Essays which can only be compared to the animated biographies of WILSON. Both these men contemplated Nature as she really is, not as she is represented in books. The observations of such men are the corner-stones of every attempt to discover the natural system. Their writings will be consulted when our favourite theories shall have passed into oblivion. Ardently, therefore, do I hope that Mr. Audubon will alternately become the historian, and the painter, of his favourite objects; that he will never be made a convert to any system, but instruct and delight us, as a true and unprejudiced biographer of Nature. The largeness of the paper has enabled Mr. Audubon to group his figures, in the most beautiful and varied attitudes, on the trees or plants which they frequent. Some are feeding, others darting, pursuing or capturing their prey; all have life and animation; the plants, fruits, and flowers, which enrich the scene, are alone still."

There has been, as yet, no letter-press description published of Mr. Audubon's Drawings; but it is designed that every bird shall be suitably described; the number of which delineated by him, is, we understand, between four and five hundred; and he, being, it is said, a native of *Louisiana*, will, we doubt not, supply much original information relative to the birds of the southern regions of North America.

It appears, by a Catalogue of the *Birds of the United States*, published in an American work, by PRINCE CHARLES BONAPARTE, that they consist of 28 families, 81 genera, and 362 species: 209 *land*, and 153 *water* birds. Of these 81 genera, 63 are common to Europe and America, while 18 have no representatives in Europe. Arranging all the known birds in 37 natural families, 28 of these are found in America; and of these 28, two are not found in Europe.

The *Magazine of Natural History*, was begun last year, and, under the able superintendence of Mr. LOUDON, is diffusing its utilities around. While it preserves a scientific character it, at the same time, renders the study of *Natural History*, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral, easy to the plainest capacity. Among its advantages are the *accentuation and explanation of the scientific terms; compendia of the various scientific departments; much new and explanatory desiderata; and original communications* from various able naturalists. There is another point, too, for which the intelligent Editor deserves great credit; namely, that of permiting authors and others who have been misquoted or misrepresented, to explain themselves in their own words and in their own way. See a *Letter* by the *Author of Ornithologia,* below.

As connected with *Ornithology*, it ought also to be stated that the *Linnean Society* has lately enriched its collection with the *Collections* and *Library* of LINNÆUS, and those of its late President Sir J. E. SMITH; so that nearly all the materials which that great naturalist employed are now in this country. The Society gave for these treasures 3000 guineas.

Enough has, perhaps, been said concerning the *quinary arrangement of Birds* proposed by Mr. VIGORS, in the *Introduction*, see page 41; but as Mr. MACLEAY, the original propounder of the system, has given us a learned and valuable paper, in the *sixteenth* volume of the Linnean Transactions, relative to the analogies existing between *Birds* and the *Mammalia*, it may be useful to observe that he has proposed the following *comparative Table:*

MAMMALIA.		AVES.
1 *Feræ*	Carnivorous	1 *Raptores.*
2 *Primates*	Omnivorous	2 *Insessores.*
3 *Glires*	Frugivorous	3 *Rasores.*
4 *Ungulata*	Frequenting the vicinity of water,	4 *Grallatores.*
5 *Cetacea*	Aquatic	5 *Natatores.*

Corrections and Additions to Ornithologia.

Colymbus minor, or DIDAPPER, page 11. This is a mistake; it is the *Fulica chloropus*, or MOOR-HEN.

Turdus musicus, or SONG-THRUSH, page 18. In regard to the *structure* of the nest of this bird, see forwards in the *Letter* to the *Editor of the Magazine of Natural History.*

Hirundo esculenta, or ESCULENT SWALLOW, page 23. The Chinese carry on a large trade in these birds' nests. It is said that the quantity annually sent from Java to China is 242,000 lbs. the export value of which is estimated at £284,000. What there can be in these superior to the *gelatine* to be obtained from innumerable animal substances the luxurious Asiatics can best explain.

Sleep of Birds, page 57. Ducks will also sleep while floating on the water; and, most probably, many other of the natatoria tribe; hence the facility of their moving from one region of the earth to another.

Incubation of Birds, page 60. Mr. SWEET, *Mag. Nat. Hist.*

vol. ii. page 113, states some curious facts relative to birds forsaking their nests. He says that "the redbreast, wren, blackbird, song-thrush, missel-thrush, and, he thinks, almost every other bird, will forsake their first nest for the season, if frightened out of it once or twice, and will immediately begin to build another; but they will not forsake their nest while laying, handle the eggs as much as you please, or change them one for the other; or even if you take one out every day, the same hen will return, and lay, in the empty nest. A redbreast will sit on any egg substituted for its own, even a blackbird's or thrush's, and will breed up the young ones; a hedge-sparrow will do the same; and, most probably, any soft-billed bird. Later in the season, after a bird has made one or two nests, it will not forsake its nest when sitting, drive it out as often as you please; some will even suffer themselves to be taken out and put back again without leaving the nest."

In regard to the *Goldfinch*, when it breeds in gardens, I can say that it builds sometimes a few feet only from the ground, in an espalier, for instance; and pass to it as close as you please during incubation, it usually remains in the nest. The greatest enemies of birds that build in such places are *cats*.

Birds of London, page 75, et seq. The *Corvus monedula*, or JACK-DAW frequents some of the church towers of London, particularly St. Michael's, Cornhill; and it is said that the *Falco tinnunculus*, or COMMON HAWK, builds in some of the more elevated parts of St. Paul's Cathedral.

I heard the SONG-THRUSH, *Turdus musicus*, singing on one of the trees in Berkeley Square, March 22, 1828. I am quite certain of this fact, as I took care to see the bird.

Mr. BRITTON informs me that, in the winter, TOMTITS, *Parus cæruleus*, frequent his garden in Burton Street, Burton Crescent, to the number of four or six at a time: the CHAFFINCH, *Fringilla cœlebs*, has also been observed in the same garden: and last summer, 1828, the WHITETHROAT, *Motacilla sylvia*, poured its pleasing song in the same place. It is scarcely necessary to add that **Pheasants** and **Partridges** are to be seen in the Regent's Park, because these were, it is presumed, brought there by those having command in that region, and which, therefore, can hardly be considered as the natural, voluntary domicile of those birds. The **Nightingale** is also occasionally to be heard in the same park. And **Starlings** now, I observe, build very commonly in or about some of the capitals of the Corinthian columns at Sussex Place.

It may be stated also, in addition to what is said in page 77, concerning the **Martin**, *Hirundo urbica*, that I observed, Aug. 10, 1829, several of those birds actively on the wing, over, and around the Southwark bridge, where they were evidently collecting their food.

It is stated in the *Mag. of Nat. Hist.* that the *Gardens* about *London*, are much more injured by *insects* than those in distant parts of the country; and it is conjectured that this is owing to the number of birds which are taken by the bird-catchers and also by the cats. Although this statement is in favour of the necessity of *Humanity to Animals* for our own well-being, yet I cannot confirm it by any knowledge of my own.

The *Falco Harpyia*, or **Crested Eagle**, page 104, is sometimes called **Harpy**. It is one of the most powerful of the Eagle tribe; a fine specimen of this bird is in the Horticultural Society's Gardens; by this time, we hope, in the *Zoological Gardens*.

Falco Washingtoniana, or GREAT AMERICAN SEA-EAGLE.

We are indebted to Mr. **Audubon** for a description of this large, rare, and rapacious bird, in the *Mag. of Nat. Hist.* vol. i. p 115. This Eagle is much larger than our Golden Eagle. The *male* weighs 14½ lbs. and is three feet seven inches long, by ten feet two inches in extent. The *female* is, of course, larger. The upper part of the head, neck, back, scapulars, rump, tail-coverts, femorals, and tail feathers, are a dark coppery brown; the throat, front of the neck, breast, and belly, a rich bright cinnamon, all the feathers of which are dashed along the centre with the brown of the back. Primaries brown, secondaries between the last-named colour and rusty iron-grey, of which colour are the lesser coverts. Legs and feet strong, and of a dirty yellow. Bill three and a half inches long, bluish black, turning into yellow towards the mouth which is blue, and surrounded with a thick yellow skin. Found, though rarely, in the back settlements of North America. The knowledge evinced by these birds, and the care of their young, are deserving notice. " In a few minutes," says Mr. Audubon, " the other parent joined her mate, which, from the difference in size, we knew to be the mother bird. She had brought a fish, but, more cautious than her mate, ere she alighted, she glanced her quick and piercing eye around, and perceived that her nest had been discovered; she dropped her prey, with a loud shriek communicated the alarm to the male, and, hovering with him over our heads, kept up a growling threatening cry, to intimidate us from our design. The young having hid themselves, we picked up the fish, a white perch, which the mother had let fall; it weighed 5½ lbs. the upper part of the head was broken in, and the back torn by the talons of the Eagle." Mr. Audubon could not, however, obtain either of these birds, nor one of their young. The specimen which he describes was obtained by him on another occasion.

Columba migratoria, or PASSENGER PIGEON, page 120. Every account from travellers confirms the immense numbers of these birds in the back settlements of North America. An incalculable quantity were seen passing over the village of *Rochester*, (*Genesee County, N. A.*) on the 13th of December, 1828, from the *North*. Such an unusual migration, at such a season of the year, excited great attention; and, what was very remarkable, those of them which were taken were *very fat*. Whence could they have come; from some *northern summer?*

Another account, from the *Susquehannah County Register, for May* 1829, states that an encampment of these birds was about ten miles from *Montrose, N. A.*; where they built nests and reared their young: this encampment was upwards of nine miles in length and four in breadth, the lines regular and straight, within which there was scarcely a tree, large or small, that was not covered with nests. They caused such a constant roaring, by the flapping of their wings, that persons, on going into the encampment, had great difficulty in hearing each other speak. Every thing throughout the camp appeared to be conducted in the most perfect order. They take their turns regularly in feeding their young; and when any of them are killed upon their nests by the sportsmen, others immediately supply their places. The editor of the paper mentioned observes, "we incline to believe that they have in part adopted Mr. Owen's *community system*, as the whole appears to be a common stock business. The *squabs*, (young pigeons,) are now sufficiently large to be considered by epicures better for a rich dish than the old ones; they are caught and carried off by waggon loads."

It appears, by the latest accounts, that the statement that this pigeon lays only one egg for a brood is incorrect. It often lays two eggs for the same sitting; and it also breeds nearly as often as our domestic pigeon, seven or eight times a year. In twenty-three days from the laying of the eggs the young can fly; in eight days after being hatched they fly from the nest. *New York Med. and Phys. Journal.*

Cygnus ferus, or WILD SWAN, page 125. The chief specific difference between this and the TAME SWAN, consists in the structure of the *trachea* or windpipe, which, in this species, enters into the *sternum*, or breast-bone, forms a circumvolution within it, and, returning out again, enters in the usual manner into the lungs. In the *tame* Swan there is nothing unusual in the progress of the *trachea* into the lungs. Like the tame Swan this species may be bred in confinement. Lord Egremont has reared it at Petworth; the pair now in the Zoological Gardens came from his lordship's menagerie. *Guide to the Gardens.*

Cygnus atrata or *Anas atrata*, page 125. The BLACK SWAN is bred with ease in England. The *trachea* of this bird is singular, being exactly intermediate in character between those of the *wild* and the *tame Swan:* it has the convolution of that of the wild species, but it does not enter the breast-bone.

Phasianus gallus, or COMMON COCK and HEN, page 146. The DORKING FOWL is distinguished by having *five* claws on each foot.

It appears from *Crawford's Embassy to Siam and Cochin-China,* that, in the forests through which the embassy passed, they observed several flocks of *wild poultry.* One of these, not far from a village, appeared so little shy that, at first, it was imagined they were domestic fowls: this account confirms the statement of naturalists that the cock and hen came originally from Asia.

Scolopax gallinago, or COMMON SNIPE, page 161. This bird is called in some of the provinces, chiefly, it is presumed, Scotland, *Heather Bleater*, from the male making a noise during the breeding season like the bleating of a goat.

> "The cuckoo and the gowk,
> The lavrock and the lark,
> The heather-bleat, the muire-snipe,
> How many birds is that?"
> *Mag. Nat. Hist.*

Answer, *Three* only.

Scolopax arquata, or CURLEW, page 163. The young of this bird are called in Somersetshire, *Checkers.*

Sturnus Vulgaris, or STERLING, page 168. Although I have never met with the *nest* of this bird in Somersetshire, the bird itself is not uncommon there in the winter. See before, in these notices, *Birds of London.*

Loxia coccothraustes, or HAWFINCH, page 175. A nest of this bird was found, May 1828, on the bough of an apple tree, at Chelsfield, Kent, and of no very curious construction; eggs five, size of a skylark's, of a dull greenish grey, streaked and spotted with bluish ash, olive brown, or blackish brown. *Mag. Nat. Hist.*

The *Tringa vanellus*, or LAPWING, page 183, is found in many of our English marshes and moors. *Shakespeare*, in *Hamlet*, act v. scene ii. has the following line:

> "This lapwing runs away with the shell upon his head."

See page 222. Some of the *learned* commentators on Shakespeare, Dr. Johnson among them, have made strange havoc with this passage; the plain truth, I presume, is, they knew nothing of the fact in natural history, that, occasionally, young birds of the *rasor*, the *natator*, and *wading* tribes, do run away as soon as they are hatched, with the shell upon their heads; hence *Osrick*, to which the above line is applied in Shakespeare, is called a *lapwing*, not being properly informed concerning the business on which he was sent, in other words, was an ignorant young bird.

The GREAT AMERICAN BITTERN (see page 200) is said to have the power of emitting light from its breast equal to that of a common torch, which illuminates the water so as to enable it to discover its prey. *Mag. of Nat. Hist.* vol. ii. page 64. It is also suspected that other birds of the *ardea* genus in this country have similar properties; yet we are not aware that any one has observed them: the breast of the COMMON HERON, *ardea major*, has a space void of feathers, but covered by a tuft of down, the use of which is not at present known; is it for the purpose of emitting light? See *Mag. Nat. Hist.* vol. ii. p. 206.

Mergus serrator, or RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, page 210. A *nest* of this bird was found by Mr. SELBY and Sir W. JARDINE upon an island in Loch Awe, in Argyleshire, in June 1828; it was made of moss mixed with the down of the bird; in structure and materials it resembled that of the eider duck; it contained nine eggs of a rich reddish brown colour. *Mag. Nat. Hist.*

Parus biarmicus, or BEARDED TITMOUSE, page 220, is called in Kent, the *Reed Pheasant*.

Fringilla carduelis, or GOLDFINCH, page 251. It is said, by Mr. MURRAY, that when this bird is fed exclusively on *hemp-seed*, the red and yellow colours of the plumage become black. *Mag. Nat. Hist.* My own observations do not confirm this; it is, I suspect, an occasional effect only of such food.

Fringilla cœlebs, or CHAFFINCH, page 252, is sometimes called *Whitefinch*.

Turdus torquatus, or RING OUZEL, page 259, is seen occasionally on the Quantock hills in Somersetshire.

Turdus iliacus, or REDWING, page 260. A friend J. N. C. Esq. of Trowbridge, on whose report I can rely, informs me that this bird occasionally sings in this country before its departure in the spring. The REDWING's song will be found in the *Pleasures of Ornithology*, page 46.

The *Sylvia atricapilla*, or BLACKCAP, page 272, sings sometimes while sitting upon the eggs. See *forwards* in these preliminary notices.

Fringilla domestica, or HOUSE SPARROW, page 280. Many nests of this bird were to be seen on the young elms in the Regent's Park, in November 1827. And in the ivy which covers the front of a house near Spring Gardens, and which looks into St. James's Park, a colony of the same birds are now domiciled. August 1829.

Page 287. The account of the death of so many *Geese* from plucking them was copied by the *Herald* from the *Taunton Courier*, a paper distinguished for the superior mental talent with which it is conducted by its proprietor Mr. MARRIOT.

Vultur gryphus, or CONDOR, page 306, 313. A living specimen of this bird is now in the Zoological Gardens; it is neither so large nor so formidable as it has been commonly represented. We are not informed, in the *Guide to the Gardens*, what the age of the specimen is; it is, we suspect, a young bird. But we still want a record of more facts concerning it. The gentlemen, Messrs. **Vigors** and **Broderip**, who drew up the Guide to the Gardens, state that "although the bill, body, and wings of this bird exhibit great strength, the legs and claws are, comparatively speaking, feeble. No *Vulture* has talons formed for seizure; the birds of this group feed upon carrion and not, like the other raptorial birds, on living prey. Our condor is certainly not the *Roc* of our old friend Sinbad." [Arabian Nights.] They add, the feats which have been related of the condor may with more apparent justice, be attributed to some of the eagle tribe, whose bodily strength is equal to that of the vultures, whose talons are adapted to seizure, and who feed on living animals. The *Harpy* exhibits much greater strength of limb than the bird before us. See a preceding notice and also page 104.

Muscicapa atricapilla, or **Pied Fly Catcher**, page 370, breeds in the woods near Ullswater; but it is suspected to be, nevertheless, a migratory bird, it not being seen in Lancashire before April nor later than September. It is also, according to the same authority, (Mr. **Blackwall**, in *Mag. Nat. Hist.*) a bird of some song, the notes of the male, which are sometimes, though rarely, delivered on the wing, being pleasing and varied.

The *Didus*, or **Dido**, of which three species are described in page 383, is now, in all probability, extinct: for although no doubt is entertained that this tribe has existed, and on the islands mentioned in the text, yet, by the latest researches, no living specimens of it can be found in any of the Islands named; nor has it been discovered any where else. See the *Zoological Journal.*

The *Tanager's Song*, page 409, set to music by Mr. **Jacob**, has been published by Mr. **Power**, of the Strand.

I avail myself of the corner of a page, to say that Mr. **Yarrell** laid a valuable paper *on the Tracheæ of Birds,* a short time since, before the Linnean Society, and which will, no doubt, in due time, appear in that Society's Transactions.

To the Editor of the Magazine of Natural History.

SIR,

There are a few points to which I desire to reply in the notice of Ornithologia, in the Magazine of Natural History, vol. i. page 341.

First, I wish to observe that " the chief of my knowledge of the natural history of birds has been obtained by a long residence in Somersetshire, at Huntspill, of which place I am a native ;" that the observations which I have made on the Song Thrush (*turdus musicus*) are particularly applicable to facts with which I have there become acquainted. I have stated also that " we must not be in haste to condemn what we have not ourselves witnessed ;" throughout my work I hope I have been constantly impressed with this sentiment.

Nest of the Thrush.

Now, although I am not prepared to deny that, sometimes and in some places, the nest of the song-thrush might be plastered with *cow-dung*, yet I do strongly suspect that no *clay* enters, even as a cement, into the composition of the plaster; and I am led to this conclusion chiefly from the lightness of the nest. The *Blackbird's nest* (*Turdus merula*) is, I am well aware, plastered with *clay*, over which is laid dry grass or some such material; and it is, in consequence of having clay in its composition, much heavier than the thrush's nest. That I have never seen a nest of the thrush in Somersetshire lined with cow-dung, I think I may confidently assert. The lining of the thrush's nest, there, at least, I have always found of a very light buff colour ; and that it consists chiefly of *rotten wood*, I am equally well assured, as, pieces of this material, and those sometimes tolerably large, are frequently apparent in it.* As to the

Singing of the Thrush while sitting on the Eggs,

I admit that it might possibly be a solitary fact, although I think otherwise; but it is one of which, however, I can entertain no doubt, as it was heard not only by myself but by other branches of my family, the sweetness of the song having excited our particular attention; and what makes the fact still more memorable is that the nest was a short distance from my father's house, and we afterwards took the young, one of which we raised and kept for some years in a cage, where it sang delightfully.

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* As it is now known that some of the *Swallow tribe,* see pages 158 and 159, have glands which secrete an adhesive gum or glue with which their nests are, in part, constructed, why may there not be such glands for a similar purpose in many other birds? in the thrush, in particular, I am disposed to think there are, and recommend this subject to our anatomical ornithologists. I have neither leisure nor opportunity for such inquiry or I would gladly undertake it.

Nest of the Magpie.

From what the *Reviewer* says (*Mag. of Nat. Hist.* vol. i. page 345) an uninformed person would conclude that the inside surface of the magpie's nest is *clay*; now, it ought to be known that, although the magpie does certainly plaster the interior part of the nest with clay; yet over the clay is invariably laid, according to *my* experience, a pretty extensive one, some dried grass, or other soft material. I ought certainly to have mentioned this in my description of the magpie's nest, in page 19; but it too often happens that what we well know ourselves we presume other persons must also know.

On the Cuckoo.

In regard to the cuckoo *not being a climbing bird*, which your Reviewer, in a note, decidedly affirms, (an affirmation without any evidence, to which one scarcely knows how to reply,) I can only say that as few, if any, persons have seen this singular bird climbing trees for its food, we can only reason from the few facts which we possess concerning it. It is, we know, furnished with scansorial feet, and I have never seen it collect its food on the ground; indeed, except in its flight, have rarely seen it any where else but on trees, not often, if ever, on bushes or near the ground. The cuckoo kept in a cage, as mentioned in Ornithologia, page 142, did occasionally pick up its food, but this it always did while it was on the perch; if an earthworm happened to fall from its beak it never descended to the bottom of the cage to pick it up. I think it therefore quite fair to conclude that it does climb about the trees which it frequents, and possibly obtains its food from them. Mr. YARRELL, than whom perhaps a more accurate and intelligent observer never existed, has dissected many cuckoos, and he says that the stomach is similar in structure to the woodpecker's, and therefore fitted for the digestion of animal food only; that the contents of the stomach invariably indicate the presence of such food, namely, the *larvæ* of some insects. Surely these facts warrant us in placing this bird among the scansors.

The public papers informed us, last summer, 1828, of some one near Worthing having been fortunate enough to preserve a cuckoo through the winter; if this notice should meet the eye of the possessor of the bird, a communication of any facts concerning it through this Magazine will be greatly esteemed.*

On the Terms used in Natural History.

The Reviewer mistakes in supposing that I might be led away by *any* authority whatever, independently of facts. I incline to think that *scientific* naturalists, those, I mean, who think more of *terms* than of *facts,* will be rather disposed to find fault with me for an opposite line of conduct: for placing *terms* in the back and *facts* in the fore ground; for setting too little value upon *systems* of any kinds. But, while I frankly admit, that I think our system-builders have pushed, in many instances, their generalization too far, it behoved me, nevertheless, as a faithful natural historian, to lay before the reader, ORNITHOLOGY, in science and in fact as it is, rather than what I could wish it to be. As to the introduction of the terms *cuculid scansor,* and a few others, every one will, I hope, perceive that this has been done to show how the scientific terms may be *anglicised* and used; and sure I am that, if they cannot be anglicised, the introduction of them, and the multiplication of *new* terms in a *learned language*, how much soever they may please the pedant, must very materially obstruct the progress of science; learned terms may, and perhaps always will, please a few, but, by the generality of persons, their introduction will be disapproved, and their acquisition will be felt and deemed a wearisome pursuit. *Things* and *facts,* not *words,* are now and, in the acquisition of all knowledge, ought ever to have been the order of the day.

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* I have just been informed by a gentleman of my acquaintance that some years since he knew of a cuckoo having been kept in a cage, after being hatched in this country, till the beginning of February in the next year: it was kept, of course, in a warm room, and fed on raw flesh; but, by omitting one frosty night to keep the room warm, it died.

The following is the notice alluded to above:

A person named Moore, residing at Goring near Worthing, has in his possession a cuckoo which was taken from the nest last year; and has been kept in a healthy state in a cage since that period. During the present season "it has poured forth its well-known call, and is a rare and perhaps a solitary instance of a cuckoo surviving in this country after the usual period at which these birds migrate, which is seldom later than August. *Sussex Advertiser; Morning Herald, June* 12, 1828.

On the Songs of Birds in the Torrid Zone.

The Reviewer wonders, seeing I am acquainted with *Wilson's American Ornithology,* that I am disposed to echo the opinion that birds of song are scarce in the *western world.* I am not aware that I have in any part of my work stated such an opinion. I have said, "It is perhaps true that the birds of *warm* climates do not equal those of the *temperate* ones in the sweetness and the richness of their notes;" and I have also said that, "From the abundance of many of the *Picæ* tribe, such as parrots, and some others of harsh note, it is probable that their sounds in the tropical woods overpower and confound the more soft and sweet modulations of the warbler tribes; and hence the opinion has obtained credit that the *tropical* regions are deficient in birds of song." But how this can be interpreted into the opinion given to me, I really cannot divine: when, moreover, I reflect that Wilson must have been most conversant with the birds of the temperate climates of the United States, how what I have said can be applied to the birds which he has described does indeed surprise me*.

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* The whole number of birds described by Wilson, be it remembered, is only 278.

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

To write a book that should please *every body* would not only be hopeless but impossible; that various opinions should be entertained concerning Ornithologia, is what I ought naturally to expect. The value of such a work cannot be immediately known; but I feel assured that the more it is examined, the more will its statements be found to correspond with actual facts in natural history.* I shall, nevertheless, feel grateful to every one who will take the trouble to look into it; and should he find any error in it, none will be more ready to acknowledge and to correct it than myself.

Aware of the necessity of being careful in a selection of facts in Natural History, I am persuaded that no one can accuse me, justly, of hastily rejecting or of heedlessly adopting whatever may be presented to my notice; but, as the evidence of my own senses is, to me, the best of all evidence, I have, as it became me to do, laid no inconsiderable stress upon that in the composition of my work; and hence, sometimes, my observations are very different from those made by persons who have preceded me in the same path.

London; Nov. 15, 1827. JAS. JENNINGS.
From the Mag. Nat. History, vol. ii. p. 111.

To the above *Letter* I wish to add, that the Reviewer of *Ornithologia,* in the *Magazine of Natural History,* has, in a note to my observation, page 285, stating that "the Goldfinch feeds in winter principally on thistle seed," objected to this statement, because, he says, "the only thistle seed which he can procure in winter must be unproductive, all the fertile seeds being scattered by the winds during the autumn." Really this point blank contradiction is too bad even for an anonymous reviewer. Had I not been well aware of this habit of the Goldfinch, I should not have stated it. Lest, however, any one should be still disposed to question it, I say, once for all, that the seed of the COMMON THISTLE, *serratula arvensis,* is not, in Somersetshire, usually dissipated by the winds in autumn; and that I have seen a hundred goldfinches at a time feeding upon its seed in the winter season. And, notwithstanding the seeds of the BULL THISTLE, *carduus lanceolatus,* are more readily dissipated by the wind, these seeds do also occasionally furnish food in the winter to those birds. But there is, in fact, no end to objections and objectors of this sort. Some years since, happening to enter into conversation with a farmer, a very knowing one, too, in his way, I mentioned that the world was a globe, and that persons had sailed round it; the only answer he made was, "*I don't believe it.*" If a reviewer be pleased to dispute a fact of which he does not himself happen to be cognisant, although stated by respectable authority, argument with him must be thrown away. The Inquisitors imprisoned GALILEO; but he still contended *the earth moved for all that.* I acquit, however, the respectable Editor of the *Magazine of Natural History,* from having any hand in that *review,* being convinced that it was got up by another person, and most probably while he (Mr. LOUDON) was out of the kingdom.

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* I might add, in defiance of the nibbling and the cavils of reviewers, that I challenge the whole of our English literature to produce a work of *five hundred pages in duodecimo,* which contains such a mass of information on the *Natural History of Birds:* as I have said, in my letter to Mr. CAMPBELL, "the volume contains the *labour of three years,* and the *accumulation of a life of observation.*"

By a singular coincidence, Mr. SWEET, in the same number of the *Mag. of Nat. Hist.* in which the above letter appears, (March 1829,) and whose account of the songs, &c. of his *warblers* is given in page 72 *et seq. of Ornithologia,* says, "I certainly have never heard a thrush sing when sitting, perhaps for want of attending to it; but have frequently heard and seen the male blackcap sing while sitting on the eggs, and have found its nest by it more than once; the male of this species sits nearly as much as the female." Thus confirming the statement that *some birds do occasionally sing while sitting on the eggs;* and thus demolishing the theory of the HON. DAINES BARRINGTON.

It is, we must admit, somewhat temerarious to controvert the statement of such respectable writers as Mr. Barrington, to whom naturalists have so long deferred; but if we always take care to be supported by FACT and not *fancy*, we need not doubt the result; in the mean time we may expect to be assailed by those who, relying on such respectable authority, or their own confined vision, are unwilling to admit more than they have dreamt of in their philosophy. On this subject I must add one other remark: if that respectable naturalist were now alive, and felt that interest in the science which a genuine natural historian ought to feel, he would rejoice in having any of his statements corrected, explained, or even disproved, if untrue: the everlasting fountains of truth and nature will continue to flow, and cannot be turned aside to gratify the vanity or self-sufficiency of any one.

Hypercriticism.

He who writes and publishes a book has not unfrequently the misfortune of being pelted at by wags and other mischievous persons, who are ever on the alert to observe something wherewith to excite laughter in themselves and others, totally regardless of the feelings of the author, or of the truth and knowledge contained in his book. More especially will this be the case should the author be so unfortunate as to step out of the *via trita*, the beaten way, in the prosecution of his design. For many and important reasons the author of *Ornithologia* has thus done. It was not, therefore, to be expected that a work which, among other novelties, lays the axe to the very root of long cherished amusements and inhumanities, sanctioned too by innumerable authorities, poetical and prosaic, plebeian and patrician, could escape some vituperation. Talk of giving up *hunting*, *shooting*, and *fishing*, too, with *Sir Humphry Davy's Salmonia*, and *Isaac Walton* to boot! God help the man, he must have taken leave of his senses!!! No, gentle reader, the author does not think that he has yet taken leave of his senses, but he fears that our *hunters*, our *shooters*, and our *fishers* for SPORT, have long left theirs, or so much would not have been said and written in favour of such silly, inhuman, and, for the most part, unprofitable pursuits.

In regard to the CRITICS, however, let him not be misunderstood: the most intelligent of that formidable body have borne ample testimony to the value and importance of his work, as the subsequent notices will testify; others, a few only, whom there is here no occasion to name, have poured out their vials of vituperation, chiefly, it appears to him, because they neither understand nor like the science of ornithology itself; and, also, because they have totally misapprehended the object of the author in combining science with *familiar* poetry.

Some of these gentlemen CRITICS, who appear to know as much of the science of ornithology as an inhabitant of the polar regions of North America, have thought proper to abuse the author for the introduction of *new* terms, although, in the preface to *Ornithologia*, he has not said much in favor of such terms; and has, besides, studiously avoided the introduction of many of them into the *poetical* parts of his work, forgetting that it is, most probably, *their own ignorance*, and not the terms, which is in fault. Besides, although the author has, it is true, *anglicised* many of those *new* terms, the merit of their *introduction* must not be ascribed to him. He found them, if not in current use, proposed at least by learned and respectable ornithologists, and it became his duty to notice them. The only new term which the author of Ornithologia has introduced is *citrinel* for the YELLOW-HAMMER; his reason for doing this is assigned in page 226: even this term can hardly be called *new*, being anglicised from *citrinella*.

The author laments, as much as any one can possibly do, that numerous terms, and to those unacquainted with the science, *new* they must be, present themselves to us in books treating of ornithology: he laments also the almost infinite variety of names, both scientific as well as trivial, which are applied to birds by different naturalists: he complains, likewise, of the needlessness and, in some instances, wantonness, with which terms have been introduced; thus rendering the study of ornithology at once perplexing and repulsive. But, how much soever he may lament all this, it was his duty, nevertheless, as an historian of the science, to exhibit it as it is, despairing as he does of ever seeing it, at least in its NOMENCLATURE, what he could wish it to be.

The author is old enough to remember the *first* introduction of the present *Chemical* Nomenclature, and those who remember it as he does, can tell how it was opposed and derided; yet it has steadily made its way: he who should now, for a moment, contend that *Glauber's salts* was a better term than *sulphate of soda*, for the same substance, would assuredly be dignified with a fool's cap. Although it is not certain that, fifty years hence, *sylvia luscinia* will be preferred to the *nightingale*, yet, as a more correct knowledge of natural history shall generally prevail, names which designate the genus and the species, or groups and families, in the most explicit manner; will, in all probability, become more common; and thus supersede the abundance of synonyms, for the same animal or plant, in the various languages of the intelligent and civilized world.

In the nomenclature of chemistry care was, however, taken to denominate substances from the ingredients of which they are composed, or from some of their sensible qualities, a few only, such as *water*, being excepted from the rule. Unfortunately the same care has not been taken in natural history: for, too often, the name of the *discoverer* of a bird is applied to it as a specific term, instead of having given to it that which shall inform us concerning its peculiar shape, colour, or other qualities. This misapplied nomenclature has been noticed in page 399: and, as it appears to be gaining ground in ornithology, it cannot on this account be too strongly deprecated. Even the specific name of *place*, much less of *person*, is not, in natural history, sufficiently discriminative, and should be avoided.

Some of the critics complain, also, of the harshness and unmusical nature of the *new* terms, forgetting that it is, most probably, their own ignorance, as has been before hinted, certainly not the unmusical nature of the terms, of which complaint should be made. It would be very kind of those gentlemen to inform us, what there is in the following words less musical than in thousands of our common words in constant use in our poetry; nay, it may be contended, with some truth, that several of them are greatly superior in their musical intonation to such as *house-sparrow, hedge-sparrow, yellowhammer, woodpecker*, &c.; surely these are less musical than *alaudina, oriolina, merulid, sylviad, luscinia, corvid, trochilid, fringillid, insessor, raptor, rasor, anatid,* *columbid, cygnine, galbule, scolopacid,* &c. Besides, as every scientific term is explained either in the glossary or at the foot of the page in which it is used, the complaint of the introduction of new terms loses much of its force; had such explanation been omitted the objection to their introduction would appear more specious, although not decisive even then, against their use.

ORNITHOLOGIA was written for the uninitiated, the PLEASURES OF ORNITHOLOGY for those whose tastes and whose science require no such initiatory method as that adopted in *Ornithologia;* yet, by some perversity, one of our journalists has complained of the last production as "something too much of the subject." Really these critics remind one of the fable of the old man, his son, and the ass: it is evidently impossible to please them.

While, again, one says "do not separate the poetry from the prose;" another says "you ought not to attempt to combine them." Another says, the poetry is a "failure:" it is asked, a failure to do what?—to teach more effectually the science of ornithology? If it does not fail to do this, with humble submission to Messrs. the Critics, it is not a failure. Another says, that DARWIN failed on a similar subject; and another, that the attempt would have floored the genius of BYRON.

That Darwin failed to render his work *popular* by his method of handling his subject, there can be no doubt; but that he failed in *his* object in writing the Botanic Garden, is more than we are warranted in assuming. That Byron might have failed on a similar subject, is very possible; chiefly, it is presumed, because he would not have condescended to that familiarity and simplicity which appears necessary to success. In what has the author of Ornithologia failed? He has stated, that his object was to render a knowledge of Ornithology more pleasing and facile by the aid of poetry; and if he have succeeded in this, his object is accomplished.*

"In every work regard the writer's end,
Since none can compass more than they intend." POPE.

Besides such various and contradictory opinions, for which an author ought to be prepared if he write on *Natural History*, he may also expect to be told, as the author of *Ornithologia* has been, that "he does not comprehend our higher naturalists." To this, however, he does not think it necessary to reply, except by reference to his work; and if in that, *when examined throughout*, there be any evidence of his want of comprehending our higher naturalists, he will at once plead guilty to the charge. Perhaps, in the mean time, he may be pardoned for asking, whom are we to consider as our *higher naturalists?* those who know and record, in clear and intelligible language, the greatest number of *facts* and existences, or those who, more intent upon *systems* and *system-building* than facts or existences, attempt to reduce to a *Procrustes' bed* the numerous anomalies with which the whole world of nature abounds, and which, despite of all *learned classification*, still unfurl their flags of defiance, by whomsoever that classification be attempted, and whether those attempts be dignified with the title of NATURAL METHOD or by any other terms.

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* While the author is still of opinion that his object in the composition of his work is accomplished, he thinks that, instead of calling Ornithologia a POEM, had he called it a Metrical Catalogue, which in fact it is, the *title* would have more strictly corresponded with the *contents*: but cavillers, even with this title, may no doubt be found; he has therefore not altered it in this second impression.

For the *Pleasures of Ornithology*, as it was elaborated with considerable care, and in which the *scientific* terms are less sparingly introduced than in *Ornithologia*, the author must confess he had confidently anticipated, from the *critics* at least, some encouragement; but, if the *London Magazine* can be relied on, his labour and time on that production have been extremely ill applied.* He desires, however, as *judges* of this work, none but the MASTERS OF THE SCIENCE, for whom chiefly it was written; if *they* condemn him, he will be unfortunate indeed. Only three hundred copies of the *Pleasures of Ornithology* were printed, as he never anticipated, from its very nature, a large sale; yet those naturalists, on whose judgment reliance can be placed, have borne a willing testimony to its merits and its truth. But the *hunters*, the *shooters*, and the *fishers*, those to whom *Isaac Walton's book* is a dainty; some of the critics too, those who are fond of *hunting* and *shooting*, at *authors* at least, have, it seems, determined that *hunting*, *shooting*, and *fishing*, are not only praiseworthy but even *intellectual* pursuits; *ergo*, his book is to them unpalatable: how, in fact, can it be otherwise to depraved tastes? It is *fortunate* for mankind, that such persons form a very small portion of that *public* by whom the pretensions of all authors and books must be ultimately decided; and, at the same time, *unfortunate* for the author, that the sneer and the gibe of such persons deter many a well-disposed reader from looking into his book.

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* The *London Magazine* is now defunct. Its decease is not at all wonderful: the continued attempts at wit and witicism, with which too many of our periodicals abound, to the neglect of other sterling and useful qualities, must end in their destruction; they burn out with their own flashing,—by flashing are they kept alive, and of flashing they will die. Who ever looks into such publications a second time?

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

The following observations on the *Technicalities of Science*, by the author of *Ornithologia*, appeared in the Magazine of Natural History, for July 1828; as subservient to the author's views, a place is given to them here.

It is time that we should get rid of that puerility which would persuade us that a fact described in terms and language familiar only to the learned, becomes of less importance when displayed in the energetical simplicity of our mother tongue. It is time that such puerility should be placed upon the shelf, or hurried to the tomb of all the Capulets. If, however, for the sake of foreigners, such a course should at any time be deemed expedient, it is hoped that an English translation will accompany the Latin description, so that it may escape the complaints frequently made, and with much truth, against many of the works on natural history which have been published in this country and elsewhere; and which appear to be designed rather to display the learning of the writers, than to state the facts which such learning ought to convey. Such, nevertheless, it is admitted, is the effect of habit, or the pride of science, or both combined, that it is often difficult for those accustomed to scientific language and terms, to condescend to the use of such as shall make what they write at once agreeable to, and understood by the general reader. Through inattention to these circumstances, the study of natural history has not obtained that attention, in this country, to which it is entitled and deserves: and I may venture to predict that, while the pride of science shall refuse to condescend to familiar explanation, the number of students in natural history will not very materially increase. However, it is to be hoped, that the prospects of natural history are extending, and that the establishment of the Zoological Society, in particular, will excite the public attention; that the study of nature will be more simplified, and be made more attractive and more amusing. The publication of the Magazine of Natural History will, it is also hoped, be instrumental in this work, by reducing the science to the level of ordinary capacities, and by smoothing the road to more recondite views.

The following LETTER has been some time before the public; it is, nevertheless, deemed expedient to republish it here.

To THOMAS CAMPBELL, Esq.
Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, &c. &c.

London, Jan. 2d, 1828.

SIR: As it is generally understood that you are the Editor of the *New Monthly Magazine*, I take the liberty to call your attention to an article which appears in the number of that periodical published yesterday, and which I am quite sure you did not write, and most probably, before its publication, never saw: for if you had, I think you could never have suffered such trash to be made public. And were it not that the name of the author of the *Pleasures of Hope*, seems to sanction what appears in that Magazine, I should not think it deserved the least attention.

The article to which I allude, treats my work on Birds, lately published, and which has been, I am happy to say, very well received by those who are competent judges of it, as a work of utter worthlessness, and, in your critic's opinion, stale, flat, and unprofitable! Not content with abusing the poetry, he has pounced upon the prose; and although I have candidly, and, I trust, modestly, explained in the Preface my motives for my attempt, and that it is designed as an *elementary* work, yet all that I have said, seems to have rendered the poor thing more pertinaciously blind. I am, however, sir, obliged to draw this conclusion, either that your critic is totally incompetent to judge of the merit and value of my work, or that all the numerous journalists and other scientific persons who have spoken of it are fools!

It is very easy, sir, for a critical butcher, with a knife and saw, to cut up the *labour of three years,* and the *accumulation of a life of observation,* with all the effrontery and cruelty of ignorance and malice; but it is not very easy for those who are the objects of his cold-blooded operations to bear them. He may wrap himself up in his anonymous cloak, and welcome; I have no wish to see him in his nakedness; but of this I am sure, that he is neither a judge of my work, nor of the science of which it treats.

In conclusion, and not to weary you with a long letter, let me entreat you, sir, for the future, to exercise your discretion as an Editor, and refuse such trash offered to you as criticism, or disavow your connexion with such a periodical,—your fame and credit will not be improved by the alliance.

I am, sir,
With much respect, your most obedient humble servant,
JAS. JENNINGS.

P.S. You will observe, sir, a few of the *public* testimonies to the value of my work on the following page. I could adduce many letters from some of the first naturalists of the age, and fellows of the Linnean Society, to whom I am personally unknown, who have voluntarily and unsolicitedly expressed their approbation of it; but such gratifying communications I have, of course, no right to make public.

To conclude this *Hypercriticism*, what a delightful book would *Ornithologia* have been, had not the author introduced the subject of *Humanity to Animals;* how pleasant could he have made it, had he eulogized, as is the fashion, ISAAC WALTON and other piscatory writers; how would our literary gourmands have gloated over whole pages of inanities, so that he had left them to the enjoyment of their *pleasures.* More especially if he had written in praise of the *Pleasures of the Chace;* of the destruction of *Grouse* and *Partridges;* of the exhilaration produced by the cry of the loud-mouthed hounds; or by the flash of Manton's rifle, on a frosty morning in October. But no, he has not chosen to do this, and verily he hath his reward,—the silly criticism of the *London* and the *New Monthly Magazines*, and the vituperation of the ignorant and the unfeeling.

London; September 1829.

CRITICAL OPINIONS OF ORNITHOLOGIA.

"This is, at once, a curious, an instructive, and an amusing work. The meritorious author has put together an immense quantity of information and anecdote respecting birds and their habits, &c.; and his stories are not the less entertaining for being strung together by poetical licence. The latter, it is true, is rather of a medley cast; but we can assure our readers, especially those who are young, that they will hardly be able to dip into a page of this volume, without meeting with something to entertain and instruct them."—*Literary Gazette, Nov.* 10, 1827.

"Mr. Jennings's Ornithologia is agreeable and amusing."—*Gent. Mag. for Feb.* 1828.

"Too often have books on ornithology, as on other subjects, been rather adapted for scientific than for general readers, much less youthful minds; and terms not understood by every one, and difficult of remembrance, have been generally used. Mr. Jennings has long turned his attention to the removing of this impediment; and it is but honest to avow that, whether we consider the extent of information he has here collected, or the easy and unaffected style in which his work is written, our opinion is, that it should obtain a place in the libraries of those who are seeking for themselves, or their children, a plain and full treatise on this interesting branch of study."—*Literary Chronicle, Dec.* 1, 1827.

"We cannot conclude this notice of *Ornithologia*, without paying our due meed of praise to its scientific details, as well as to the amiable spirit of philanthropy that pervades both poetry and prose."—*New Literary Gazette.*

"A very interesting volume: the poem which forms the groundwork affords a favorable specimen of the author's genius in this branch of composition."—*Atlas.*

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

"We can promise those who look into *Ornithologia* a most pleasant and profitable employment. For youth especially, we know not a more clear or attractive book."—*Sunday Monitor.*

"Mr. Jennings has certainly the merit of producing a very pleasing and useful little volume."—*Taunton Courier.*

"Mr. Jennings's volume is well adapted for presentation to young persons; while the knowledge which it displays entitles it to a much higher stand than a mere book of amusement."—*Mirror.*

See also the *Magazine of Natural History,* &c. &c.

THE PLEASURES OF ORNITHOLOGY, (2s. 6d.)

> "Once more, Go seek YE in their various NESTS
> Much pleasure and much wisdom. Who shall cope
> With Birds in architecture? Not nice skill
> Of man's most practis'd hand; not all the lore
> Of sages."—Page 37.

"A meritorious production."—*London Magazine.*

[See the *Preface* to the *Pleasures of Ornithology.*]

"The Pleasures of Ornithology is written with great feeling, and proves that the author has the love of nature deeply implanted in his breast."—*West of England Magazine.*

"A beautiful little poem. The object of the writer, 'to ally poetry to nature, to science, to truth, and to humanity; to make her a useful handmaiden in the accomplishment of great, good, and important ends;' has, in this production, been happily attained."—*Leamington Spa Courier.*

Lately published, by the author of *Ornithologia,* (price 2s. 6d.)

AN INQUIRY
CONCERNING THE
NATURE AND OPERATIONS
OF THE
HUMAN MIND;
IN WHICH
THE SCIENCE OF PHRENOLOGY, THE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY, PUNISHMENT, AND EDUCATION, ARE PARTICULARLY CONSIDERED.

(A Lecture delivered at the Mechanics' Institution, London.)

WITH NUMEROUS CORECTIONS, ADDITIONS, AND NOTES.

"Altogether the work is one of great research, and well merits the attention of the public."—*West of England Magazine.*

"In this inquiry there are many things, especially those which show the fallacy of metaphysical notions concerning the mind, which deserve attention. Of course the same principle pervades this inquiry as does all others of the kind and party to which Mr. Jennings belongs; viz. that every thing old and established must be bad, and every thing new and innovating good." *Gentleman's Magazine.*

While the author admits that the *Gentleman's Magazine* is one of the few honourable exceptions to the trashy literature of the day, he regrets that sentiments should be, in that publication, attributed to him which can be no where found in his writings. So far is the author from thinking that every thing new and innovating is good, he thinks much of what is *new* and innovating is *bad*; as he does also much of what is *old.* As *useful* knowledge consists in a record of facts and of existences, and deductions from them, whether apprehended by the mind or stored up for us in books, so, from the multiplication of our means, in consequence of the present general diffusion of knowledge, the *latest* knowledge, if properly chosen, will be, most probably, the best: for it is by the united, as well as insulated, experience of a *large* number of observers, accurate ones of course, that the greatest certainty in every kind of knowledge, science, is to be attained. For these reasons it is, the *paucity of observers* in ancient times, and from the scanty *data* on which they reasoned, that few of their deductions in any science can be depended upon. Therefore, *modern* knowledge must be preferred to *ancient*. Some centuries hence, in all probability, the same opinion will be held of much of our *present* knowledge, as is now entertained by us concerning that of the ancients. *We can,* of course, *only reason from what we know*; all ages and all countries have done the same: that MAN is a PROGRESSIVE BEING, what we know of him incontestibly proves.

☞ *The preceding works, as well as the* FAMILY CYCLOPÆDIA, *(for a notice of which see the end of the volume,) are to be obtained of Messrs.* SHERWOOD, GILBERT, AND PIPER, 23, *Paternoster row.*

ORNITHOLOGIA,

OR

THE BIRDS:

A POEM, IN TWO PARTS;

WITH

AN INTRODUCTION TO THEIR NATURAL HISTORY;

AND

COPIOUS NOTES:

BY JAMES JENNINGS,

Author of Observations on the Dialects of the West of England, &c. &c.

"They whisper Truths in Reason's ear,
If human pride will stoop to hear."
LORD ERSKINE.

Quel bien manque à vos vœux interessants oiseaux?
Vous possédez les airs, et la terre, et les eaux;
Sous la feuille tremblante un zéphyr vous éveille;
Vos couleurs charment l'œil, et vos accents l'oreille.
DE LILLE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
AND PUBLISHED BY
POOLE AND EDWARDS, STATIONERS' COURT.
1828.

J. AND C. ADLARD, PRINTERS,
Bartholomew Close.

TO
THE NOBLE,
THE HONOURABLE,
THE LEARNED, POETIC, SCIENTIFIC,
AND OTHER
SUBSCRIBERS,

THIS WORK
IS
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
AS,
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PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH the science of ORNITHOLOGY has already many votaries, it is presumed that it can be rendered more generally interesting by a combination with POETRY, an attempt at which is here made; with what success must be left to the public to determine.

Having made the attempt, the author will not, of course, be understood as agreeing with the sentiment expressed by an ancient writer, namely, that

Miranda canunt sed non credenda Poetæ.
CATO.

For, although, doubtless, one of the objects of the POET ought to be to excite attention, and, if you please, with our ancient, *admiration*, yet poor indeed must that poetry be which excites admiration and nothing else. Perhaps the author's notions concerning poetry might not be in exact accordance with the opinions of those who affect to be, or who are considered, the *arbitri elegantiarum*, but he nevertheless thinks that the Poetry, however admirable, however splendid, which neither instructs, reforms, nor persuades, is good for little; hence the *non credenda,* in the passage above quoted, is not admissible as a general truism. He thinks, indeed, that POETRY ought, if possible, always to be made subservient to TRUTH—its handmaid; not, as is too frequently the case,—TRUTH *made subservient* *to* POETRY, and, too often, her distorted *slave.* And he feels assured that POETRY, as the handmaid of TRUTH, may become, as it sometimes has been, eminently beneficial and useful to mankind.

The author desires it, however, to be distinctly understood, that the higher order of poetry in the following work has neither been his object nor his aim. The style and versification of the splendid effort of DARWIN, the BOTANIC GARDEN, have not escaped his observation; but, notwithstanding, that poem has had, and, no doubt, always will have, many admirers, because it contains some striking imagery combined with TRUTH and SCIENCE; yet it appears, and the coldness of its general reception warrants the conclusion, that so much elegant labour, so much pomp of diction, have failed to render it popular; and a work on such a subject ought to be popular to be extensively useful. The style, versification, and diction of DARWIN, have been, therefore, in the present work, studiously avoided. Whether the author have succeeded in more simple measures, and in a more familiar style, is not, of course, for him to answer; but, it must be evident, that the method of treating a scientific subject, which is here adopted, *promises*, at least, more popularity.

While the author has endeavoured to be simple, he has, he hopes, avoided vulgarity. Aware of the truth which HORACE has long ago told us, that,

Difficile est proprie communia dicere,—

it is difficult to express common things well; still the difficulty has not deterred him from the attempt. He has, contrary to the example of DARWIN, introduced few scientific terms into the poetry; these have been consigned to the INTRODUCTION and to the NOTES, where they appear to the author most appropriate. For this course, one reason, among others, may be assigned, namely, that our scientific naturalists, as will be seen in the INTRODUCTION, have not yet exactly agreed as to the ARRANGEMENT and TERMS which are most suitable to the science; and, therefore, were the *Linnean* or any other systematic arrangement and terms adopted in the text, as, very possibly, some future naturalist may strike out or discover another method more consonant with nature, which might become more popular, the poem, thus written, would be rendered comparatively useless. By using the *common* names this is not very likely to occur: for the author is not so sanguine as to expect that the *common* names of birds will be ultimately and entirely superseded by *scientific* ones; at least by such scientific ones as are now in use: the latinity and novelty of these, if nothing else, presenting to the uninitiated a disinclination, nay, a repugnance, to their introduction.

The *classical* ear will, it is presumed, be always more pleased with *Picus martius*, than with *Great Black Backed Woodpecker;* with *Tringa pugnax*, than with *Ruff and Reeve;* with *Larus canus*, than with *Common Gull*, or even *Sea-mew;*[*] and *Picus erythrocephalus*, no very musical expression, will be preferred by many to the *Red-headed Woodpecker;* yet it is to be feared that *learning* will never succeed in rendering such terms *popular*. The best method of making them so will be to *anglicize* them; then, indeed, the *Luscinian Sylvia*, or *Sylviad*, instead of *Nightingale*, and *Canorous Cuculid*, for the *Cuckoo*, may occasionally find a place in our poetry, if not in our prose. But this is an innovation which, to any great extent, the author would not presume to introduce. See the *Observations on the Quinary Arrangement* of Mr. Vigors, Introduction, page 43. A few only of the terms proposed by this gentleman has been adopted, and appear in the poetry in an anglicized dress; such are *Raptor*, *Rasor*, *Scansor*, *Vulturid*, &c. In short, although the author's own taste and inclinations lean to the use of *scientific* terms, (and he fears that some of his readers will think he has introduced too many,) there can be, he apprehends, no doubt that the general reader will prefer the common and more usual names. It is true he runs the risk of incurring the censure of those who are more partial to *names* than to *things;* and he may possibly offend the pride of the professor, but, on the most mature deliberation, he feels persuaded that the course which he has pursued for an *elementary* work is the most useful and most instructive: enough of science pervades, he hopes and believes, the Introduction and the Notes.

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[*] Yet who would wish in that beautiful song of Lord Byron's, (*Childe Harold, Canto I.*) to see *sea-mew* exchanged for *Larus canus?* In truth, *classical* names may be dignified, but they generally want the charm of simplicity.

These observations are made in order that the author's object in regard to the *poetical* portion of his work might not be misunderstood. If he have succeeded in rendering a knowledge of ornithology more pleasing and facile by the aid of Poetry, that object is accomplished.

To the originality of assembling the birds under the auspices of the Eagle and the Vulture the author lays no claim; he adopted it, believing that it offered an easy means of displaying the knowledge which he was desirous to convey. Candour, moreover, compels him to declare that the perusal of a little poem in MS., written by a lady, and entitled the *Lanthorn Fly's Lecture,* descriptive of many of our insects, suggested, more immediately, the present performance.

Of the *Prose* portion of the work it may be sufficient to say, that a crowd of naturalists have, from time to time, recorded a variety of useful and amusing facts concerning BIRDS;—that to bring the chief of these facts before the student, with the addition of many more from the author's own resources, and others from intelligent and scientific friends, and to combine them with *familiar* poetry, so as to render the science altogether more attractive, and to exhibit a useful epitome of it, have been the design of the present undertaking, which, the author flatters himself, will supply, at once, agreeable reminiscences to the ADULT, and elementary and useful instruction to YOUTH. Indeed, he frankly avows, that he looks forward to its becoming an every-day companion in our *academies* and our *schools*, as well as at our *firesides*.

Of his own ADDITIONS to the Natural History of Birds he does not wish to say much; they are numerous, and, he believes, not unimportant: an observer of nature for more than forty years ought to add something to our knowledge concerning her works. That he has been assiduous in the composition and arrangement of the volume will be, it is presumed, self-evident; in fact, no labour, trouble, nor research, has been spared. But that it is, even now, with all his assiduity, free from error, he is, nevertheless, neither so weak nor so vain as, for a moment, to suppose.

The NOTES contain notices of *every* genus and the most important of the species described by LINNÆUS; and also notices of the additional genera of Dr. LATHAM. The BIRDS, indeed, described in this little work, are more in number than *all* those described by LINNÆUS; so that, it is hoped, nothing very material has been omitted concerning this interesting portion of the animal kingdom.

It ought, perhaps, also to be mentioned that, although the author's residence has been chiefly in and around the metropolis during the last ten years, many of which have been passed at LEWISHAM, with innumerable rambles to *Sydenham*, *Forest Hill*, &c. &c., yet, that the chief of his knowledge of the Natural History of Birds has been obtained by a long residence in *Somersetshire*, at HUNTSPILL, of which place he is a native; and where, to his shame be it spoken, in his earlier days, he was the most inveterate *bird's-nester* in the county. Not an egg or nest of any kind in hedge, bank, bush, the loftiest tree, or wall, could escape him. He had, while yet a boy, one year, an exhibition of nearly two hundred eggs, obtained from the various tribes, the Hawk, the Cuckoo, and a numerous *et cætera.* He is now, however, thoroughly convinced of the folly, not to say wickedness, of such predatory plunder; the birds which do us harm are, comparatively, so few, that, the *House-sparrow* perhaps excepted, (and he fears that he must except the house-sparrow of the *country*,) benevolence would bid us leave them ALL to their enjoyments;—a moderate degree of care being sufficient to prevent any of their serious depredations. It is hoped that *his* inconsiderate example will be no inducement to any one to follow the idle and heartless pursuit of *bird's-nesting.* No one can more truly regret than the author now does the pains to which his heedless and silly curiosity, or something worse, subjected them.

Should, therefore, any fact relative to the *birds of this country* be stated in the following pages, which may not seem in accordance with what is stated in books, or even with the experience of the accurate observer of nature—the Natural Historian, it is hoped that it will not be forgotten, that many facts may be observed in one place which might not occur in another. Even the *nidification* of birds, although in general pretty uniform, undergoes, occasionally some modification in consequence of the ease or difficulty with which certain materials can be obtained. We must not, therefore, be in haste to condemn what we have not ourselves witnessed. In the Natural History of Birds, even of those with which we are most familiar, we are still greatly deficient; there can be no doubt that more extended observation will add very materially to our knowledge of this truly delightful department of nature.

The author takes the present opportunity of returning his sincere and best thanks to those kind and intelligent FRIENDS and CORRESPONDENTS who have so promptly and liberally communicated to him many facts concerning the Natural History of Birds which were not previously known; and also for their hints and suggestions for the improvement of his work. Some of these gentlemen are specifically mentioned in the *Introduction* or the *Notes;* but he deems it incumbent upon him to state that he is indebted for valuable information to Dr. LATHAM, to whose interesting and voluminous work on Birds he is also under considerable obligation; to N. A. VIGORS, ESQ. M.A. F.L.S. &c. the learned Secretary of the Zoological Society, and the ingenious expounder of the *Quinary Arrangement;* to Dr. HORSFIELD, the author of *Zoological Researches;* to the POET LAUREATE; to RICHARD TAYLOR, Esq. F.L.S.; to the Rev. W. L. BOWLES; the Rev. W. PHELPS; to J. G. CHILDREN, Esq. F.L.S. &c. and Secretary to the Royal Society; to W. YARREL, Esq. F.L.S. whose collection of English Birds, and their eggs, as well as many anatomical preparations of Birds, evince, at once, his zeal and his extensive knowledge of this interesting science; and to R. SWEET, Esq. F.L.S. for whose valuable communication on the singing of some of the warbler tribe in the Introduction, the author is also particularly indebted and obliged. Nor must he omit the name of Mr. DAVID DON, the ingenious librarian of the Linnean Society, who has, on numerous occasions, most kindly assisted the author in his ornithological researches.

While the author regrets that so long a time has elapsed since the first announcement of his work, the delay has been, from the state of trade, unavoidable,—yet the delay itself has been of infinite advantage to the completion of the volume. The substance of all the *Lectures on Ornithology* which the author gave during the last summer, at the *City of London Institution,* is incorporated in this work.

The student, in consulting the following pages, *ought most carefully to attend to what is stated in the Introduction.* The INDEX, as it includes most of the provincial names of Birds, will considerably assist those who are not acquainted with the *scientific* terms. As the names of many Birds are mentioned in the *Poem* which have no notes of reference annexed, when information is wanted concerning them, recourse should be had to the *Index.*

It may seem almost superfluous to add that, as the author is desirous of rendering his work as interesting and complete as possible, a notice of any errors, or of any striking and recently observed facts concerning BIRDS, will be most thankfully received, if addressed to the author, at the publishers', free of expence, and with an *authenticated* signature.

Convinced as the author is that a knowledge of Natural History is best conveyed through the alluring medium of *Poetry;* if his present effort be approved, it is his intention to proceed (should health and opportunity permit,) in a similar way with the remainder of the *Animal kingdom.* The whole will then be arranged in the following manner:

I. MAMMALIA, or the QUADRUPEDS, and *other animals* which *suckle* their young; characterized by *a heart having two ventricles and two auricles; the blood being red and warm; viviparous.*

II. ORNITHOLOGIA, (*the present Work,*) or the BIRDS; the characters of which are *the same as in the first class* except that BIRDS are *oviparous,* covered with feathers, and furnished, for the most part, with wings, so as to be able to raise themselves in the air.

III. AMPHIBIA, which will include the *Serpent, Crocodile, Frog, Toad, &c.;* in this class *the heart has but one ventricle and one auricle; the blood being red but cold; inspiration and expiration, in some measure, voluntary.*

IV. ICHTHYOLOGIA, or the FISHES; *the heart of this class has the same structure, and the blood similar qualities with those of the amphibia;* but *Fishes* are distinguished by *branchiæ,* or *gills,* and by *having no such voluntary command of the lungs.*

V. ENTOMOLOGIA, or the INSECTS; *the heart has one ventricle, but no auricle; the blood is cold and white;* this class has also *antennæ* or *feelers.*

VI. HELMINTHOLOGIA, or the WORMS; the characters of which are the same as in class V.; this Class has, however, *no antennæ,* but *is furnished with tentacula.*

And thus become, it is hoped, useful and amusing manuals of the science of *Animal Natural History;* and prove, besides, the author hopes and believes, that POETRY can be rendered subservient to NATURE and to TRUTH.

Of the WOOD-ENGRAVINGS, improved from the elegant *designs* of a *Lady*, Mrs. HAMILTON, and executed by the author's friend, Mr. HENRY HUGHES, and which accompany the work, it is scarcely necessary to speak, their excellence being manifest. The author cannot, however, here avoid calling the public attention to this branch of the arts; and he, at the same time, hopes that an ARTIST who combines in his own person that of a *Landscape-Draughtsman*, a *Wood-Engraver*, and a *Painter*, will not long remain without a suitable portion of public encouragement and reward. Mr. HUGHES is already known by his work containing *Sixty Views* in *Wales*, all of which, except one or two, were drawn on the spot, and afterwards engraved on wood, by the artist himself.

Ladywell, Lewisham; October, 1827.

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ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Notwithstanding the author's vigilance, some *nominal*, and a few other *typographical*, errors have escaped him; the reader will be kind enough to correct them from the following notices.

In addition to the *Ornithological* publications mentioned in various parts of this work, another ought to be noticed lately begun under the superintendance of Sir Wm. Jardine, bart. and P. J. Selby, esq. with the co-operation of many other gentlemen eminent in the science. It is entitled *Illustrations of Ornithology*, and is designed, in the first instance, to display the newest groups and newest species, and afterwards all the species which have already been described. The Plates are to be coloured correctly after nature, and are also to be accompanied with scientific letter-press descriptions. It is in royal 4to. One number has already appeared.

Page 6. If any additional evidence were wanting to prove that *angling* is one of the worst of *sports*, a painful instance has been lately supplied to me. Walking on the banks of the canal in Forest-Hill wood, I saw an angler who had just caught a small pike about a foot long; but not being able to detach the hook from the throat of the fish, he was obliged to pass his finger under the gills, and *to cut out the hook from the throat with a knife;* this being done, the fish still continued to breathe. I urged the angler to kill the fish at once; but no, the animal was to remain in agony, because, while it remained alive, putrefaction would not take place!

Page 14, line 10 from the bottom, for *dilata* read *dilatata.*

Page 22, lines 5, 15, and the last, for *Taylor-bird*, read *Tailor-bird ;* in page 248, line 6 from the bottom, make the same correction; and again in page 323, lines 1 from the top, and 6 and 7 from the bottom, make the same corrections, as well as wherever else in this work *Taylor-bird* may be found; *Tailor-bird* being the usual and accredited spelling.—32, line 7, for *voluminious* read *voluminous*.—36, col. 2, line 8, for *Gallinoula* read *Gallinula*.—37, line 11 from the bottom, for *chrysæëtos* read *chrysaëtos*.

In pages 41 and 42, the Circular Diagrams explanatory of the *Quinary Arrangement* ought to have been placed in a *circular* form instead of that in which they now stand; but the page is altogether too small to permit a proper display of this system.

It should have been mentioned in page 48, that there is another disease of birds called also *pip*: it consists in a thick white skin or film that grows under the tip of the tongue; and is said to arise from want of water, or drinking that which is impure, or by eating improper food. It is cured by simply pulling off the film with the fingers and rubbing the tongue with salt. Hawks are said to be peculiarly liable to this disease.

In page 49, it is stated that "the organ of smell is said, in the *Gannet*, to be wanting." This is, however, not correct; there is probably no deficiency in the smell of that bird; but, from the peculiar structure of its tongue, the taste is very probably incomplete.

Page 52, line 15 from the bottom, after *also* add *to*.—56, line penult., for *appears*, read *appear*.—58, line 12, for *Virginianus* read *Virginiana*.

Page 59. In addition to the paragraph concerning the *change of plumage* in the *female* bird, it may be stated that a paper by Mr. Yarrel was read before the *Royal Society* in May last, and will appear in the next publication of the *Philosophical Transactions*, in which it is clearly shewn, by numerous facts, that the alteration in plumage does not arise from age, but from disease of the sexual organs; nay, that not only may the female be made to produce feathers and other appearances like the male by an artificial abstraction of merely a portion of the oviduct, so that the continuity of the canal may be destroyed, but that the male, as in the capon, becomes also greatly altered in manners and plumage by the abstraction of the organs of generation. The conclusion drawn by Mr. YARREL is that age is not necessary to this peculiar appearance of the female; and that both male and female become, as it were, a neuter gender, by the deprivation of the sexual organs, and that both assume characters decidedly intermediate between the two sexes. The change, however, in the colour of the feathers of birds is not produced by this natural or artificial disease only: for the plumage of some birds is considerably heightened as the sexual organs dilate in the spring; in the decline of summer the plumage loses again its brilliancy, returning to shades of grey and white for defence during the winter; at which time also the sexual organs become contracted and the voice subsides.

Page 62, line 13, for *tail* read *rail.*

Pages 64 and 250. *Alauda arvensis*, or SKY-LARK. Notwithstanding what is stated concerning the *song* of the *female* lark, a bird-catcher in the neighbourhood of London assures me that the *female* larks do not sing; that it is the constant practice of the bird-catchers to kill them when caught. That the young males if taken at once from the nest and bred up in confinement have not so beautiful a note as those caught in nets in the autumn: a proof here that nature is the best teacher.

Page 67, line 9, for *similiarly* read *similarly.*—81, line 14 from the bottom, for *their* moss read *its* moss.

Pages 90, 91, 92, and 93, for ANDREW WILSON read ALEXANDER WILSON.

Page 96, line 3, for *Axilla* read *Axillæ.*—117, line 10 from the bottom, for *prevails* read *prevail.*

Page 124. Of the SWAN, (*Cygnus Olor,*) I find the following notice in the *Universal Magazine* for 1749, vol. v. page 58, in an account of *Abbotsbury, Dorset.* "The royalty of this town is in the family of the *Horners,* who have a *Swannery* here containing from 7 to 8000 swans."

It should have been stated, in page 130, that, although in some districts of the kingdom the *Wild Duck* is called a *Mallard,* the term *Mallard* is applied, in the west of England, to the *male* of the tame duck.

Page 132, line 9 from the bottom, for *m*oonlight read *n*oonlight.

Page 150. Concerning the ROOK, I have been since favoured with the perusal of the late Lord ERSKINE'S POEM; it is entitled the FARMER'S VISION, and was composed, his Lordship informs us, in consequence of his having, at the instance of his bailiff in Sussex, complained to a neighbour of his *Rookery*, the only one in that part of the country; but having been afterwards convinced of the *utility* of ROOKS, his Lordship countermanded his complaint, and wrote the *Farmer's Vision*, which consists of about 300 lines, with some very pertinent *notes*. In justice to his Lordship it ought, however, to be stated, that he distinctly asserts *he is not a poet;* that the production was not fit for publication, and that a few copies only were printed for friends who asked for them, and that it was too long to make them in writing. It is dated from *Buchan-Hill*, *Sussex*, *December* 25, 1818. Without controverting his Lordship's position, *that he was not a poet*, there will be no difficulty in stating that there never was a man so eminent as an orator as Lord ERSKINE, who might not have been a poet had he chosen to direct his attention to the pursuit of poetry;—the soul of eloquence, and the soul of poetry, if not identical, are so nearly allied as scarcely to be distinguishable. Exquisite sensibility belongs to both.

His lordship, at the commencement of the poem, in allusion to birds and other animals, says,

"They whisper truths in reason's ear,
If human pride would stoop to hear."

He then proceeds to describe how a flock of rooks were shot at by his bailiff, some of whom were

"Fainting from many a cruel wound,
And dropping lifeless on the ground."

When a rook thus addressed his lordship:

"Before the lord of this domain,
Sure, justice should not plead in vain,

How can *his* vengeance thus be hurl'd
Against his favourite lower world?
A sentence he must blush to see
Without a summons or a plea;
E'en in his proudest, highest times,
He ne'er had cognizance of crimes,
And shall he now, with such blind fury,
In flat contempt of judge and jury,
Foul murder sanction in broad day,
Not on the KING's but GOD's highway?"
Touch'd with the sharp but just appeal,
Well turn'd at least to make *me* feel,
Instant this solemn oath I took—
No hand shall rise against a Rook."

I can afford no farther room for quotation from this humane poem; but in a note, page 22, after having quoted some lines from COWPER'S TASK, (three of which may be seen in page 283), his lordship observes "The whole subject of humanity to animals is so beautifully and strikingly illustrated in this admirable poem (the TASK), that no parents ought to be satisfied until their children have that part of it by heart."

Whether this production of his lordship be published hereafter in a separate form or not, it is to be hoped, at any rate, that those who may be collectors of his lordship's writings will take care that the *Farmer's Vision* is preserved amongst them."

Page 171. The author saw a beautiful specimen of the *Alcedo ispida*, or COMMON KING-FISHER, on the banks of the Ravensbourne, between Bromley and Beckenham, in Sept. 1827; it was actively on the wing, and darted out from beneath the bridge over which passes the public road.

He is disposed to think, that he saw the *Nightingale*, too, in a hedge near Lewisham, towards the *latter end of August;* but the shyness of this bird renders its identification, without its song, in such a situation, difficult.

Page 175, line 17, after GROSBEAK read *Haw-Grosbeak.*

Page 178, line penult., for *fly* read *fry*.—184, line 10, for *Great Coot-Footed Tringa* read *Grey Coot-Footed Tringa;* same page, line 13, after *Red Coot-Footed Tringa,* read *Johnson's Small Cloven-footed Gull.*—186, line 9 from the bottom, for *redgy* read *sedgy.*—198, line 4 from the bottom, for *Cranaries* read *Craneries.*—206, line 16, after *they can fly,* place a *comma.*—207, line 9, for *Œnicdemus* read *Œdicnemus.*—209, line 5, for *countries* read *counties.*—210, line 6 from the bottom, for *that* read *than.*—224, line 9 from the bottom, for *Prarie* read *Prairie.*—227, line 7 from the bottom, for *Americanus* read *Americana.*—247, line 13, for *countries* read *counties.*

Page 253. After BRAMBLING read *Bramble ;* same page, after SISKIN read *Barley-Bird.*—262, add (to precede the note) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) LINNET.—264, line 11 from the bottom, for (43) read (45).—274, line 6, for *lilies* read *lilacs:* sweet smelling lilies do not blossom in April, in this country.

Page 280. The HOUSE-SPARROW is occasionally seen *white ;* another variety *black.*

Page 285, line 6, for *its* read *it's.*—303, line 10, for *embossom'd* read *embosom'd.*—305, line 15, for *Indicus* read *Indica.*—317, line 2, after *hour* add a semicolon.

Page 319. The *Manuel d'Ornithologie* of M. TEMMINCK first appeared in 1815. The arrangement consists of *fifteen orders* and *eighty-eight genera.* In line 6 of this page from the bottom for *ornithologsts* read *ornithologists.*

Page 328, line 6, for *contists* read *consists.*—357, line 3, for PIÆ read PICÆ.—358, line 7 from the bottom, for *the feet* read *three feet.*—Same page, line 11, for *resembles* read *resemble.*

Page 377. The account of the colours of the *male* and *female* OSTRICH has been obtained from the most authentic sources ; yet the *female* ostrich, now in the museum of the *Zoological Society*, and which was lately dissected there, has the wing and tail feathers *white.* Are these birds subject to variation in this respect ?

Page 381, line 1, after *came* dele the *comma.*—line 15, for *helmets* read *helmet*.—390, line 11, for PLANTAN read PLANTAIN. —399, line 8 from the bottom *dele* the article *a*,

In addition to what is stated by Mr. SWEET in page 73, concerning the singing of birds, that gentleman has favoured me with the following particulars: "When you called on me last year, at Chelsea, I had several *female* birds which never attempted to sing: but now I have two that sing frequently; one is a female *Black-cap;* she sings a note peculiar to herself, and not the least like the male or any other bird with which I am acquainted; I kept her several years before she began to sing. I have also a female *Willow-wren* that sings nearly as much as the cock; this bird was bred up from the nest, and did not sing at all the first year; her note is quite different from the male's, but resembles it sufficiently to indicate that it belongs to the same species. The females of the *Larger Pettychaps*, and the *Larger Whitethroat,* which I have had for several years, never attempt to sing. The following are the migratory birds which I now have. *Wheatear*, *Whinchat*, *Stonechat*, *Redstart*, *Nightingale*, *Larger*, and *Lesser Whitethroat*, *Black-cap*, *Greater Pettychaps*, and *Willow-wren*; I had also, till lately, the *Wood-wren.*—R. SWEET, Chelsea, Oct. 26, 1827."

The *Willow-wren,* Mr. SWEET informs me, sings also *at night* when there is a light in the room.

Page 49. That birds are rendered more buoyant by having the cells in their bodies filled with air, as well as also the bones, there is no reason whatever to doubt; but in what manner their increased buoyancy is produced does not seem well ascertained. Whether by condensation of atmospheric air similar to that produced in a strongly inflated bladder, by which its elasticity is considerably increased, or whether by some other air specifically lighter than that of the atmosphere?—The first appears the most probable reason.

TO MRS. RICHARD KAY,

THE FOLLOWING

INTRODUCTION

Is respectfully inscribed by her sincere and

affectionate Friend,

THE AUTHOR.

Since this *Introduction* has been printed, Mr. HENRY WARREN has published six *Lithographic Views* on the RAVENSBOURNE, among which is one of LADYWELL, the retreat described in the following pages. The coincidence is somewhat remarkable, seeing that Mr. WARREN and the author of this work are total strangers to each other. As delineating some favourite spots, the author feels peculiar gratification in recommending Mr. WARREN'S *Views* to public attention. They consist of, *the Source of the Ravensbourne—Cæsar's Camp—Simpson's Castle*, Bromley—*Scene in Lord Farnborough's Park—Ladywell*—and *the Mouth of the Ravensbourne.* These *Views* may be seen at Messrs. Dickinson and Co. Bond-Street.

INTRODUCTION.

Beatus ille qui procul negotiis—
Libet jacere modo sub antiqua ilice,
Modo in tenaci gramine;
Labuntur altis interim rivis aquæ;
Queruntur in silvis Aves;
Fontesque lymphis obstreperunt manantibus
Somnos quod invitet leves.—Horat.

Harmer's Cottage, Ladywell,
LEWISHAM.

The Summer's fervid reign is past,
And bland September come at last:
A grateful change—the most to me—
To all who can the city flee.
Light pleasure's sylphs, with tripping feet,
Your presence *here* will gladly greet:
Here Quiet—Contemplation dwell
Beside the fount of Ladywell,
Which flows incessant through the year,
As virtue pure, as crystal clear.

Come to my COTTAGE!—now look out!
Fair prospect, MADAM! who can doubt?
The *church* at distance, 'midst the trees,
With verdant meadows round, must please.
There, too, the social ROOKERY,
That ever hath been dear to me;—
The bridge—beneath, the rippling stream—
The alder's umbrage, and the gleam
Of sunlight darting through the shade,
By lofty elms or poplars made,
With willows waving to the wind,
All aid to please, to soothe the mind;
While DUCKS, in sportive diving, play,
And GEESE wide o'er the meadow stray;
The PIGEONS skim the air along,
The COCKS and HENS the barn-door throng;
As anxious mothers cluck aloud
The downy young around them crowd,
What time is heard the *thresher's* flail;
The PEACOCK struts in plumy pride,
The wild GALLINA* by his side,
E'er ready, with his powerful beak,
Fierce vengeance on his foes to wreak;—
And lo! the milk-maid with her pail!—
Here feeds the *sheep*, and there the *cow*,—
On yonder slope the moving *plough*,
While heard the *plough-boy's* cheering note,
On airy waves it seems to float.

---

* *Numida Meleagris*, GUINEA HEN, or *Pintado*.

DSI

THE PLOUGH-BOY'S SONG,
in September.

THE morning breaks o'er Shooter's hill ;—
The Redbreast twitters by the mill ;—
The Cocks, at answering distance, crow;—
In neighbouring mead the cattle low;
Yo, hup—yo, ho!
To plough we go!

While artless JANE, of beauty pride,
Her light step dashing dew aside,
With notes of song wakes echo now,
As blithe she hastes to milk the cow ;—
Yo, hup—yo, ho!
To plough we go!

The sun his streams of golden light
Now pours o'er hills and vallies bright;—
The Thrush her song is warbling now;
Afield we go to chearful plough;
Yo, hup—yo, ho!
To plough we go!

O NATURE! mistress of my song,
To *thee* love, beauty, truth belong ;—
To *thee* I homage pay ; and now
Afield we go, and—*speed the plough;*—
Yo, hup—yo, ho!
To plough we go!

These are the rural sights and sounds
With which the valley here abounds.
And here, in SPRING, the NIGHTINGALE
Charms, with his song, the listening vale,
What time vibrations of delight
The CUCKOO's monotones excite,
While the wild WARBLER train attend,
And with his notes their music blend;
To grove, to wood, to shady dell,
Echo responds in wavy swell;
All Nature rapturous appears,
And Fancy vegetation *hears*.*
Nor will the churchyard sod refuse
Its sombrous strains by rustic muse;
Where, too, sleeps *Genius*, wild and free,
Within the grave of DERMODY.†

---

* Madame COTTIN has a similar, but, I think, more happy thought,—“*On croiroit presque entendre le bruit de la vegetation.*” —*Elizabeth ou Les Exilés de Sibérie.*

† A poet of some promise, whose malignant planet marred his best efforts. The fate of this young man reminds us of the fate of SAVAGE, who had, like DERMODY, been consigned to neglect in his earlier years: hence the unfortunate impressions which both received could not, as it appears, be counteracted in their effects by any subsequent attempts, either of others or of themselves; a convincing proof of the power of early circumstances in forming character; and a proof, also, of the necessity of early attention to such surrounding *media*, in order that the best character may be fashioned and brought out. Dermody was a native of Ireland; but died at Lewisham, or in the neighbourhood, in 1802, at the age of twenty-eight.

Oh visit not with brow severe
His failings,—o'er them drop a tear!
A little walk, yon steep ascend
And pleasure will your toil commend.
Behold, in undulating swell,
How rise the hills, how sinks the dell.
Now let your steps descending turn
Along the banks of *Ravensbourne;*
And, though not sure to meet delight,
Her nymphs, perchance, will you requite.
Some BIRDS, even now, will here in song
Be heard the sylvan shades among;
The THRUSH, the REDBREAST in the grove,
Still warble soft their notes of love;
And LARKS, high soaring in the air,
Proclaim their pleasure still is there;
Of CHAFFINCH "chinks" the woods are proud,
And shrieks of BLACKBIRDS echo loud;*
While SWALLOWS, many, bounding, fleet,
Bathe in the stream both wings and feet.
What time along the marge you stray,
Behold the fishes' sportive play;—
Oh may no angler, in yon nook,
Disturb those tenants of the brook,
Nor wound them with insidious hook!

---

* The Blackbird, although rarely if ever heard in song in the autumn, utters, nevertheless, upon being disturbed, a singular and continued shrieking or note, which, although well known to the natural historian, is not easily described.

His, wanton SPORT,—a sport unblest,—
A sport I ever must detest.*
Return—and should you, seeking HEALTH,—
The maid most coy when woo'd by wealth,
Westward ascend—behold a SPRING
That might, perchance, even heal a KING.
But who its modest worth shall tell—
What poet sings of LADYWELL?

---

* **LORD BYRON** has thus denounced the sport of *angling:*

"And angling, too, that solitary vice,
Whatever *Isaac Walton* sings or says:
The quaint, old cruel coxcomb in his gullet,
Should have a hook, and a small trout to pull it."
Don Juan, Canto XIII.

His Lordship adds, in a note, "It would have taught him humanity at least. This sentimental savage, whom it is a mode to quote (among the novelists) to shew their sympathy for innocent sports and old songs, teaches how to sew up frogs, and break their legs by way of experiment, in addition to the art of angling, the cruellest, the coldest, and the stupidest of pretended sports. They may talk of the beauties of Nature, but the angler merely thinks of his dish of fish; he has no leisure to take his eyes off the stream, and a single bite is worth to him more than all the scenery around." It must, however, be admitted, notwithstanding Walton's bad taste in regard to angling, that his book is an amusing one; and has, very probably, induced many persons to follow the sport, who would otherwise never have thought of it. Surely, notwithstanding all that *Walton* says, the sitting for hours by the margin of a brook or river, is not a healthy occupation, whatever the angler may make of it; surely man, intellectual man, can find something more praiseworthy than such solitary inactivity to gratify his aberrant inclinations!

None—none;—then now, O FOUNT! to THEE,
Let this first offering hallowed be.
While many seek the ocean's shore
And listen to his hollow roar;
May I, with calm delight, still sing
Of THEE, unostentatious SPRING![*]
I love the woods, the hills, the fields;
Will you attend me, LADY! there
To hear the BIRDS—to snuff the air—
To taste the pleasures Nature yields.
I love the COUNTRY and its calm,
For many wounds a sovereign balm.[†]
I loathe the CITY and its noise,—
Its tumult, pageants, and its toys.
Mistake me not—I *friendship* prize,[‡]
And gladly seek the good and wise;

---

[*] It ought to be mentioned, that, although this SPRING is in the little hamlet of LADYWELL, the name of Ladywell is not derived from it. *Ladywell*, the fountain so called, produces pellucid and excellent water. The spring here alluded to is a powerful *chalybeate*, and totally unfit for common use. It is similar in its properties to the waters of Tunbridge; and, were it farther from the metropolis, would, long ere this, have obtained celebrity. Those who may be desirous of knowing this spring, will find it at a cottage inhabited by Mr. RUSSELL.

[†] O rus, quando ego te aspiciam? quandoque licebit
Nunc veterum libris, nunc somno inertibus horis,
Ducere solicitæ jucunda oblivia vitæ.—HORAT.

[‡] Ego vos hortari tantùm possum, ut amicitiam omnibus rebus humanis anteponatis; nihil est enim tàm naturæ aptum, tàm conveniens ad res secundas vel adversas.—CICERO DE AMICITIA.

But may I not such *here* possess—
May I not here find *happiness?*
Come then, fair LADY! with me stray;
To SHOOTER'S-HILL now haste away;
Or, midst the shady bowers of LEE,*
I'll proudly wait your company.
Or, if you so prefer, the dark
The chesnut groves of GREENWICH PARK;
Forgetting not—who can forget?
The balmy breezes of BLACK-HEATH,

---

* "The spirit of improvement through the land
Strides like a giant."

The improvements which have lately been made on BLACKHEATH, at LEE, and the unostentatious village of LEWISHAM, deserve a short note. Those who remember the gloomy grandeur of LEE, may now contemplate it under another aspect, namely, that of rural elegance. There is an oak by the footway, leading from *Lee church* to *Lee-green*, that deserves, together with the surrounding scenery, to be immortalized by the pen, or the pencil, or both. BLACKHEATH has lately received an important addition to the east, in a series of elegant villas, evincing, at once, the taste and opulence of the owners. The modern and long-neglected ruin of *Sir Gregory Page Turner's* seat, has, at length, totally disappeared; and, in its stead, have arisen numerous mansions which wealth and competence have chosen for their abode. Of LEWISHAM, I dare not trust myself to say much; it is a quiet, unobtrusive village, in which I have passed many happy days, and in which a considerable portion of this work was written. The improvements, either completed or going on here, will render its neighbourhood still more desirable as a residence. The walks and scenery surrounding this place are sufficiently described in the text.

Where health will twine for you a wreath,
Where the *Campanula*[*] blooms yet;
Where CHAMOMILE sanescent grows,
Call'd by the learned *Anthemis*,[†]
Specifically *nobilis*,—
And *Heath* her beauteous blossom shows,—
There oft I rove. On FOREST-HILL
I drink of pleasure's cup my fill;—
There listen to, the shades among,
The REDBREAST'S soft, autumnal song;
Or hear the THRUSH, a farewell lay
Pour out, as sinks to rest the day;
While from the stubble sudden spring
The *Partridges*, on sounding wing;—
No, social Rasors! ne'er will I
Send death amongst you as you fly[‡].

---

[*] *Campanula patula*.—See a subsequent note.

[†] *Anthemis nobilis*, or COMMON CHAMOMILE with *single* flowers; the cultivated variety has *double* flowers. Whatever may be the merits of the *Linnæan*, and other scientific systems of botany; it is, nevertheless, greatly to be feared, that, from their apparent complexity and verbosity, it will be a long time indeed before they will come (if ever) into general use, and supersede the present trivial nomenclature.

[‡] For some account of the misery produced by firing among flocks of birds, see the notes to the *House Sparrow's Speech*. For an explanation of the term *Rasor*, see the prose portion of this Introduction.

I love the steps of autumn time,
When cool, not cold, the morning's prime;—
When noon has lost his scorching pride,
And pleasures throng the brooklet's side;—
When eve is bland—the genial breeze
Plays wantonly among the trees;
Or, dimpling o'er the river's face,
Adds to its beauty novel grace.
Delight with me, too, often roves
In SYDENHAM's dark, shady *groves;*
Yet o'er her *hills*, with, LADY! YOU,
Pleas'd I shall be to dash the dew
From herb and flower; and pleas'd to see
The blooming HEATH I ween you'll be.
Nor will that modest lilac maid,
CAMPANULA*, with drooping head,
Deny her charms, the while appear
Such goodly prospects far and near.
The *purple* DIGITALIS† too,
Will here her homage pay to you.

---

* The *Campanula patula*, or MEADOW BELL-FLOWER, is one of the most elegant of the Campanula genus, and only not more admired because it is so very common on our heaths.

† *Digitalis purpurea*, or FOX-GLOVE. This valuable and beautiful indigenous plant, although growing plentifully in hedges in various parts of the kingdom, is rare in the immediate neighbourhood of London. The curious will, however, find it on the Sydenham-hills,—hills which no one who delights in rural scenery should omit to see; yet how many of the inhabitants of the metropolis have never visited them!

Hence, if it please you, down the vale,
DULWICH shall tell a pleasant tale
Of Pictures and of groves of shade,
By painters and by Nature made.[*]
If, still aberrant, you will stray,
To HITHER GREEN without delay;
Let health's brisk breezes round you blow,
While you command the vale below.
Or wander to that RUSHY-GREEN,
Where diving *Dabchicks*[†] oft are seen.
Now pass the Ravensbourne again,
And quit the haunts of busy men,
For scenes where dwells the woodland sprite,
And FOREST and CANAL unite;
The WARBLERS here will charm your sense
With Nature's wildest eloquence.
Though rarely do such works of art,
Canals, the *picturesque* impart,
Yet here both Art and Nature meet,
To lay it, LADY! at your feet.[‡]

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[*] *The Dulwich Picture Gallery*, the munificent gift of Sir Francis Bourgeois, affords an agreeable lounge for those who have any taste for paintings. It is greatly to be regretted, that a singular regulation precludes some of its usefulness; this regulation consists in compelling every one, desirous of viewing it, to obtain a ticket (gratis it is true,) in *London*. No one applying without such a ticket at *Dulwich* is admitted.

[†] *Colymbus minor*, or DIDAPPER; a considerable number of these birds may be always seen in a pond, or on its banks, at Rushy-green.

[‡] This Canal unites with the Thames, near Deptford. By a multiplicity of locks, it reaches a considerable elevation

But other wanderings you shall find,
Of various power to stir the mind.
Of PENGE, the embowering WOOD explore,—
Of pleasure there an ample store;
Scenes which the artist, charm'd, shall trace,
And on his canvass lay with grace:
There pensive, tranquil thought might dwell;
There, too, might hermit choose his cell;
And there, the lords of the domain,
The WARBLERS, hold triumphant reign.
Obedient now to Pleasure's wand,
Let BECKENHAM your steps command:
The region, if not classic, such
You scarcely can admire too much.
Behold its churchyard picturesque,
With gates that trench on the grotesque;
Then pass through grove and sombre glade,
For poet's haunt in autumn made.
The whirring PHEASANT here may too,
At eve or morning startle you,
As from the wood, with sudden spring,
She flies on heavy, labouring wing.

When at *Forest-hill* it winds between woods; and thence, passing on through *Sydenham*, it again winds through *Penge-wood* to *Croydon*. For several miles, while on the elevation, there are no locks; hence, from its sinuous course, it adds considerably to the very beautiful scenery through which it passes.

Here Robinson,* from toils of state
Opinions' conflict, keen debate,
Retires to soothe, relax his mind,
Woo Nature—to us ever kind.
  If now to Bromley you extend,
New scenes, new subjects will befriend;
Nor shall the Villa, taste of Long,†
Be absent from my rural song.
Still farther would you, Lady, rove,
Delight attends in many a grove.

---

* The Right Honourable Frederick Robinson, now Lord Goderich, who, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a luminous and eloquent speech, on the opening of the Budget to Parliament, March 13, 1826, promulgated some of the most liberal and important opinions that were ever uttered by any statesman.

It is scarcely possible to estimate the effect of such sentiments on the well being and happiness of the human race, to the furtherance of which they so eminently tend, when so extensively diffused, as they necessarily must be, in reports of our parliamentary proceedings; but we may be morally assured that such sentiments will never be forgotten; and that the time has indeed arrived when the minds of our enlightened statesmen are in accordance with the opinions of an enlightened people; and that, among those, while the names of a Canning, a Peel, and a Huskisson, will be prominent, the name of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Robinson, will never be mentioned without respect and esteem.

† The Right Honourable Sir Charles Long, Bart.; since this was written, created Lord Farnborough.

Proceed to HAYES, where CHATHAM* dwelt;
Some recollections may be felt,—
How, in the senate, many shook
Beneath his all-commanding look:
How here, the social hearth beside,
He sank the statesman and his pride;
And, pillow'd on affection's breast,
He solace sought, and found the best:
For what is Splendour, what is Fame,
To HOME and HAPPINESS?—a name!
While here, let no pretence delay,
But listen to the woodland fay;
Or with the mountain-nymph ascend,
Who will with glee your steps attend.

---

* WILLIAM PITT, Earl of CHATHAM, the first of that name, and the incidents in whose life are inseparably woven with the history of this country. Hayes was his favourite residence, where he died; and where also his son WILLIAM, mentioned in a subsequent note, was born. This village affords a quiet and umbrageous retreat. Among many fine trees here, some *Lombardy poplars* (Populus dilata), near the mansion, where once presided the *penates* of that respected nobleman, are peculiarly interesting by their great height and beauty, they being well clothed with *ivy*. *Fashion* has latterly fixed a stigma upon this tree (the Lombardy poplar,) which it does not deserve. It is now become, it is true, extremely common, but it is nevertheless, very ornamental, and as little injurious by its foliage as its shade; indeed, much less so than most other trees. This residence of Lord Chatham is now occupied by Mrs. Dehaney.

Should taste now bid you botanize,
The upland wilds fail not to prize:*
Here *Sphagnum*† lifts her humble head,
And *Drosera*‡ will her dewdrops shed;
While *Heaths*, of roseate hue, will smile,
And thus your wandering way beguile.
Or should your steps refuse the waste,
With *Edens* near the scene is grac'd,
And cots embower'd, while soaring high
Their smoke, slow curling, stains the sky;§
Where *Peace*, beside the hearth of HOME,
Spurns with disdain the lordly dome.
Or like you length and breadth of view
O'er scenery rich, of varied hue,
Ascending still, at HOLWOOD PARK,
Look round, and many objects mark;
'Mongst which the QUEEN of cities stands,‖
A cynosure to distant lands.

---

* The spot called *Hayes Common* deserves a more dignified name: it is at once a wild and an upland, not to say mountainous district; and the numerous villas around add an interest to it of no ordinary kind.

† *Sphagnum palustre*, or BOG-MOSS, a curious and useful plant for packing other plants. See Mr. SALISBURY's account of it in the *Transactions of the Society of Arts*.

‡ *Drosera rotundifolia*, or SUNDEW.

§ "Above whose peaceful umbrage, trailing high,
A little smoke went up, and stain'd the cloudless sky."
BOWLES's *Hope*.

‖ London.

Should still no fancy prompt return,
Explore the source of *Ravensbourne*
At KESTON ;—HOLWOOD'S manse around,
Where sylvan beauties wild abound,
Now wander, whither from the strife
Of faction—stir of public life,
Once oft retir'd that WILLIAM PITT,
Much more a statesman than a wit;
He who, with FOX, shook senates proud;
Whose voice once echoed long and loud.
Oh, had he been less fond of WAR!
What fame exists without a scar?*
Now, LADY! having hither brought—
Beguil'd you into rural thought,
I will not ask your audience long,
But list a moment to my song,—
A SONG of BIRDS—their HOPES, their FEARS,
Their LOVES, their PLEASURES, and their TEARS;
In which, I trust, some seeds of TRUTH
Are sown, to serve both age and youth.
You, LADY! when that smiling BOY,
Of promise bright—his parents' joy,

---

* The Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT, for many years prime minister of this country, and son of the first Lord CHATHAM, mentioned above. HOLWOOD PARK and HOUSE are on a very elevated, yet well-wooded spot. The mansion has been, I understand, rebuilt since the time Mr. Pitt inhabited it. It is altogether a very delightful situation, and does credit to the taste of the late prime minister as a country residence. There is a public footpath quite through the park. The present occupier is JOHN WARD, Esq.

Shall upward grow, will prompt his mind
To all that's good and great—refin'd;
And when, perhaps, my voice is mute,
When silent hangs my minstrel lute,
Awaking only to the breeze
Some fitful strains, not such as these;
When ALL that may remain of me,
You in my *thought*, my *song* shall see,
You will remind him, that 'twas I
Who struck these chords of minstrelsy.
Simple, in sooth, they are, and trite,
Yet will, I hope, the mind excite
To pleasures simple as my lay,
Yet pure as truth—as sunshine gay.
You will remind your favourite BOY
I lov'd him—wish'd him every joy;
And, should he listen to my strain,
I, LADY! have not liv'd in vain.
  Oh teach him, when you will know best,
To love, admire the WARBLERS' NEST ;*

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* The structure of the NESTS of BIRDS affords, perhaps, one of the most agreeable lessons in Natural History.

Among the most curious nests of our *English* birds may be named that of the *Wren*, the *Long-tailed Titmouse*, the *Thrush*, the *Goldfinch*, the *Chaffinch*, the *Magpie*, and the *House Sparrow;* to these may also be added the *Swallow's*, the *Martin's*, the *Wood Pigeon's*, and the *Wood-Pecker's*. Of the nests of *Rooks*, it may be sufficient to observe, that they are often found to the number of six, or even more, in a cluster. *Crows*' nests are always solitary; they are similar in structure to those of the rook.

Mark the DESIGN their nests among,—
Observe the wonders of their song,—
Their habits, their intelligence,—
And say not, *Man alone has sense,*
But, SEE THE STEPS of PROVIDENCE!

The *Wren's* nest is globular, and very often made of green moss, both within and without; it has a small hole on the side of it, just large enough to admit the bird. It is generally affixed to some tree, and behind it, at a few feet from the ground, so as not to be immediately in sight. The wren seems very partial to trees having ivy growing about them, most probably as, by its leaves, the nest is more effectually concealed. It does not seem to prefer any particular tree: the nest will be found very often attached to the elm or the ash; sometimes against an ivied wall, sometimes in the thatch of a house, and sometimes in a hay-rick. In such cases the materials of the nest will often also be varied. See more relative to the Wren in the note attached to the *Redbreast's Song*.

The *Long-tailed Titmouse* makes a nest similar in shape to the wren's, but considerably larger in external appearance: it by no means looks so neat as the wren's; its exterior is composed of dead leaves, interspersed with white moss, &c. Interiorly it is, however, much more curious than the wren's, being almost full of small, soft, and generally white feathers. It is rarely, if ever, appended, like the wren's, to trees; its usual site is in a hedge, on some bush, either of the thorn or wild plum, a few feet only from the ground.

The nest of the *Thrush* is exteriorly composed of green or other moss, and a few straws; interiorly it is plastered all over with some paste, apparently composed of *rotten wood*, with something to cement it; it is generally of a light buff colour. When dry it is quite hard, so that the eggs, if moved, rattle in the nest. The statement, in many of our books of natural history, that it is lined with *clay*, is, as far as my experience goes,

Teach him a sympathy to feel
For NATURE, for the GENERAL WEAL.
Grave this a lesson on his heart;
May he the precept wide impart, —

founded in mistake. The *Blackbird's* nest, although it belongs to the same genus, is a very different one, and has nothing remarkable in it, except that it is plastered within with *clay*, over which some fine straw or dry grass is laid. The usual situation of a thrush's nest is behind some ivied tree; sometimes, however, it is found in bushes, particularly of thorn; I have seen a thrush's nest in a yew-tree. The blackbird seems to prefer the thorn for its nest, particularly if it happens to be growing over water; it prefers, too, that part of the bush which is least accessible.

The *Goldfinch's* nest is composed exteriorly of white moss, interiorly of light-coloured wool and hair; it is one of the neatest of our English bird's nests. The goldfinch, during its nidification, is a very domestic bird; it appears to prefer a garden near a dwelling-house to almost any other spot for its nest. It builds either on young elms, to which it is particularly partial, on an apple, a pear tree, or a cypress. If not disturbed, it will build sometimes so low that you may look into the nest; and, during incubation, you may pass within a few feet of it without its evincing the least alarm.

The *Chaffinch* builds a neat nest, although not so neat as that of the goldfinch; its habits are also in many respects similar; it prefers gardens and apple-trees, but is not choice in the site for a nest. It will build on fir-trees, against a wall on a grape-vine, on apple and many other trees, but rarely, if ever, in hedges.

The *Magpie's* nest is similar in its lower exterior to that of the rook and the crow, but it is covered over with thorns, so that access to the interior can only be had by two open spaces,

BE KIND TO ALL—to *man*, to *beast*,
Bird, *fish*, *worm*, *insect;* thus a feast
Of happiness will he partake,
And happy other beings make.

not very regularly marked, one on each side of its covering. This covering is an irregular kind of lattice-work, formed of thorns, and is evidently designed as a defence from some birds of prey; it is no shelter from the weather. The magpie always builds a solitary nest, either in a thorn-bush or on some lofty elm, and sometimes on an apple-tree; it does not often build very near dwelling-houses, but a remarkable exception to this has lately occurred in Somersetshire, at Huntspill: a magpie not only having built its nest on a tree a very short distance from a dwelling-house, but it occupied the same nest two years successively. We may be tolerably certain that this bird was not disturbed during the first year, or it would not, most probably, have returned to the same nest a second time. I apprehend the magpie, as well as its neighbours, the rook and crow, to be a very useful bird in the destruction of worms, of which it partakes as food.

The *House-Sparrow*, as its name indicates, builds very often beneath the eaves of the thatch, as well as of the tiles of dwelling-houses. Its nest is composed of straw and feathers; it has usually a hole for an entrance, similar to the wren's. The house-sparrow is, however, no churl in the choice of a site for a nest. I once saw a house-sparrow's nest in that of a deserted magpie's nest. They will sometimes take possession of the martin's nest; and some curious facts have been stated concerning the battles of these two very different birds. In the neighbourhood of London, and indeed in Hoxton-square in London, the house-sparrow's nest will be seen on the Lombardy poplar; the only kind of nest which I ever saw on that tree,—it does not seem a favourite of any of the tribe of birds. WILSON informs us that

Teach him, ALL VIOLENCE IS WRONG—
A truth as useful as it's strong:
He must not rob the *Sons of Song*.
Nay, that the BIRDS should be as FREE,
As wisheth and expecteth HE.

the *Baltimore oriole* builds also on it in the American towns. The house-sparrow builds also very often in the ivy attached to the walls of dwelling-houses: many nests of this bird were to be seen among the ivy covering the front of a house in Montpellier-row on Blackheath, September 1825.

Swallows construct their nests externally of clay; they are lined with straw and feathers. The favourite site of the swallow's nest is the interior and near the tops of chimneys; they, however, occasionally build in other places. The *Martin* builds its nest similarly to the swallow, but the entrance to it is more confined: the usual place for martins' nests is under the eaves of houses, particularly those whose walls are covered with what is called *rough-cast*, or in the corners of a stopped-up window.

The *Wood-Pigeon's* nest is made with only a few sticks, merely sufficient to retain the eggs; an extraordinary nest for such a bird, when the habits of the domestic pigeon are considered. They generally build on trees. I have seen a wood-pigeon's nest on a yew-tree; it is more frequently, I believe, found on the elm or the fir.

The *Hawk's* nest *(Falco tinnunculus)* or *Kestril*, is similar to the wood-pigeon's: I have seen it on an apple-tree.

The *Wood-Pecker's* nest is made in the trunk of some tree, a hole in which the bird scoops out with his bill; the entrance is round, and just large enough to admit the bird.

Several of our English birds make their nests on the ground: among these may be named the *Skylark*, the *Partridge*, the *Redbreast*, &c. &c.; and, of course, most of those having *palmate feet*, as the *Duck*, *Goose*, *Swan*, &c.

There's no effect without a cause:
This one of Nature's wisest laws.
To be all which you may desire
Your child will certain things require:

Among the NESTS of FOREIGN BIRDS, that of the *Taylor Bird* deserves especial mention: the bird itself is a diminutive one, being little more than three inches long; it is an inhabitant of India. The nest is sometimes constructed of two leaves, one of them dead; the latter is fixed to the living one as it hangs upon the tree, by sewing both together in the manner of a pouch or purse: it is open at the top, and the cavity is filled with fine down; and, being suspended from the branch, the birds are secure from the depredations of snakes and monkeys, to which they might otherwise fall a prey.

In Dr. LATHAM's collection is a specimen of the taylor bird's nest, composed of a single large leaf, of a fibrous rough texture, about six inches long independent of the stalk, five inches and a half in breadth, and ending in a point. The sides of this leaf are drawn together so as to meet within three-quarters of an inch; within is the nest, about four inches deep and two broad, opening at the top; the bottom of the leaf is drawn upwards, to assist in the support of it. This interior nest is composed of white down, with here and there a feather and a small portion of white down intermixed.

Another nest of this bird has also been described as composed of several leaves, like those of some kind of hazel sewed together; the inner nest formed of dry bents, fibres, and hairs, suspended from a tree. It is, therefore, probable that this bird, as well as some others, varies the structure of its nest as occasion and the materials may require. These singular works are performed by the bird's using his bill instead of a needle, and vegetable fibres for thread. We still want, however, more information on this interesting subject. See the note on the Taylor bird in Part II.

Fit circumstances must surround
Him, or your wishes he'll confound.
Crabs on the cherry do not grow,
Nor does the pine produce the sloe;

The *Rufous Bee-eater*, or *Merops Rufus*, constructs also a very singular nest. This bird is a native of Buenos Ayres; the nest is built generally on the naked great branch of a tree, sometimes on the windows of houses, a fence, or a projecting beam of a high house or other building: it is composed of earth, in the form of a baker's oven, and is often built in the short space of two days, both birds being engaged in its construction; it is six inches in diameter, and one thick; a division is within, beginning at the entrance, and carried circularly, so that the eggs are deposited in the inner chamber, on a bed of grass. The swallow and other birds often attempt to obtain possession of this nest, but are generally repulsed by the owners.

Many of the *Orioles*' nests are also deserving notice. The *black and yellow Oriole*, (*Oriolus persicus*,) inhabiting South America, has a pendent nest, shaped like an alembic; it is affixed to the extreme branches of trees; sometimes, it is said, so many as four hundred nests are found hanging on the same tree. See the note on the *Orioles* in Part II.

The *Philippine* and *Pensile Grosbeak* make also very curious nests. See the note on the *Grosbeak*, &c. in Part I.

In concluding this account of the nests of birds, of which occasionally more will be found in the subsequent notes, I may notice here the nest of the *Hirundo esculenta*, or *Esculent Swallow*, an inhabitant of China and the Islands of the Indian Ocean. This nest consists of a gelatinous substance, in shape resembling an apple cut down the middle. The nests are found in great numbers together, and are by the luxurious Asiatics made into broths, and otherwise cooked, and are esteemed one of the greatest dainties of the table; they are also occasionally used for glue.

All kindred things produce their kind;
Thus is it with the human mind.
If you would wish him to be kind,
Impress kind conduct on his mind,—
Not by mere *words*, but let the DEED
Of kindness done before him plead;
Chiefly the deed performed by YOU,
Which, seeing done, he'll wish to do.
  You will, no doubt, some learning give,
And teach him in the world to live;
But what he'll want, as much as sense,
Is *active, warm Benevolence.*
This will produce more happiness
Than all besides he may possess:
This teach him, and his little heart
Will kind impressions soon impart.
Thus will there in his bosom spring
AFFECTION for each living thing;
And thus will be his friends' delight,
That beauteous BOY of promise bright!
  Seductive, LADY! is the theme!
INSTRUCTION, now a rushing stream,
O'erflows its banks on either hand,
And widely fructifies the land.
A goodly harvest may we see,
When *all* shall *wise* and *happy* be!

The nests of some of the *American swallows* are also curious. See the note on the *Swallow* in Part I.

Meantime, *one* word should be impressed,
In letters large, on every breast:
It is most potent, and will well
Perform what can't the prison cell;
What vengeance always fails to do—
It is, fair LADY! seen in YOU,—
KINDNESS: repeat the word again—
KINDNESS,—and thus I end my strain.*

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* "It is necessary also to observe, in regard to the *Formation* of the *Human Character*, that the *mind* for ever shrinks from all attempts to *force* it into any mode of discipline or action; that, while it may be led by gentleness and argument almost any where, the least appearance of *force* or *violence* produces revolt and repugnance. So true is this, that it has led to the trite observation, that it is more easy to *lead* man wrongly than to *drive* him *right*. This disposition, in the ignorant and uninformed, has been frequently called *obstinacy;* but it is, nevertheless, the result of a general law which we all obey. There is no other effectual way of removing such obstinacy than by enlightening the understanding,—imparting knowledge. And if this can be done by shewing also that we have the *interest*, that is, the *happiness*, of the individual at heart whom we are desirous of persuading, we shall be more likely to succeed in the object at which we aim." See my *Lecture on the Nature and Operations of the Human Mind*. The minds of children appear to be operated upon in a similar way to those of the adult, and, therefore, in their education similar means must be adopted.

The NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS, or, as it is now scientifically termed, ORNITHOLOGY, needs little to recommend it to those whose taste for simple pleasures is not vitiated. The habits, manners, and modes of life of this interesting portion of the animal kingdom, have attracted the attention of numerous *naturalists*, who have, from time to time, recorded a variety of useful, instructive, and amusing facts concerning it. Various *artificial arrangements* have also been proposed, by which, it has been presumed, the science of ornithology may be more readily and correctly acquired. Among these, the arrangements of LINNÆUS, of PENNANT, of LATHAM, and of VIGORS, deserve, it appears to me, the most attention; although those of BRISSON, the Baron CUVIER, and of M. TEMMINCK, are also entitled to respect. Nor ought, perhaps, the name of JOHN RAY, our own countryman, who flourished in the seventeenth century, as a distinguished naturalist, to be here omitted; but we cannot enter into a detail or examination of these last writers' systems. As, however, that of LINNÆUS has obtained much celebrity, is constantly referred to by our naturalists; and seems, besides, to have contributed much to the foundation on which many, if not all, of the subsequent arrangements of the Natural History of Birds have been built, it may be useful to place an *Epitome* of it before the reader, premising, that no artificial arrangement which has hitherto been made public, how ingenious soever it be, will correspond *exactly* with that which is found in Nature; but, that *some* arrangement is nevertheless useful to facilitate this pleasing study, will, it is presumed, be universally admitted.

The following are the ORDERS, GENERA, and the NUMBER of the SPECIES, described by LINNÆUS.

ORDO I.

ORDER I.

ACCIPITRES.

HAWKS.

These have hooked bills, the superior mandible near the base being extended on each side beyond the inferior; and, in some, it is armed with teeth.

Generum Nomina.	*English Names.*	*Number of Species.*	*Generum Nomina.*	*English Names.*	*Number of Species.*
1 Vultur.	Vulture, Condor,	8	3 Strix.	Owl -	12
2 Falco.	Eagle, Falcon, Hawk, Kite, &c. -	32	4 Lanius.	Shrike, Butcher Bird, &c.	26

ORDO II.

ORDER II.

PICÆ.

PIES.

These have a compressed bill resembling a knife.

* *Pedibus ambulatoriis—with feet formed for walking.*

5 Trochilus.	Humming-Bird -	22	11 Coracias.	Roller -	6
6 Certhia.	Creeper,	25	12 Gracula.	Grakle -	8
7 Upupa.	Hoopoe,	3	13 Corvus.	Raven, Rook, Crow, Magpie, &c.	19
8 Buphaga.	Beef-eater,	1	14 Paradisea.	Bird of Paradise -	3
9 Sitta.	Nuthatch,	3			
10 Oriolus.	Oriole -	20			

** *Pedibus Scansoriis—with climbing feet.*

15 Ramphastos.	Toucan -	8	19 Picus.	Woodpecker,	21
16 Trogon.	Curucui, English Lady,	3	20 Yunx.	Wryneck,	1
17 Psittacus.	Parrot -	47	21 Cuculus.	Cuckoo -	22
18 Crotophaga.	Ani -	2	22 Bucco.	Barbet -	1

*** *Pedibus gressoriis—with feet formed for leaping.*

23 Buceros.	Horn-bill,	4	25 Merops.	Bee-eater,	7
24 Alcedo.	King-fisher,	15	26 Todus.	Tody -	2

ORDO III.

ORDER III.

ANSERES.

GEESE.

These have a smooth bill, broadest at the point, covered with a smooth skin, and furnished with teeth; the tongue is fleshy, and the toes are palmated or webbed.

* *Rostro denticulato—with a toothed bill.*

Generum Nomina.	*English Names.*	*Number of Species.*
27 Anas.	Duck, Goose, Swan, &c.	45
28 Mergus.	Merganser,	6
29 Phaeton.	Tropic Bird,	2
30 Plotus.	Darter	1

* * *Rostro edentulo—with a toothless bill.*

31 Rhynchops.	Skimmer,	2
32 Diomedea.	Albatross,	2
33 Alca.	Auk	5
34 Procellaria.	Petrel	6
35 Pelecanus.	Pelican, Cormorant, Gannet, &c.	8
36 Larus.	Gull	11
37 Sterna.	Tern	7
38 Colymbus.	Diver, Grebe, Guillemot, &c.	11

ORDO IV. ORDER IV.

GRALLÆ. WADERS.

These have a somewhat cylindrical bill; the tail is short, and the thighs naked; many of this tribe are distinguished by long legs and long bills.

* *Pedibus tetradactylis—feet with four toes.*

39 Phœnicopterus	Flamingo,	1
40 Platalea.	Spoonbill,	3
41 Palamedea.	Screamer,	2
42 Mycteria.	Jabiru	1
43 Tantalus.	Ibis	7
44 Ardea.	Crane, Heron, Stork, Bittern, &c.	26
45 Recurvirostra.	Avoset	1
46 Scolopax.	Curlew, Woodcock, Snipe, &c.	18
47 Tringa.	Sandpiper, Lapwing, &c.	23
48 Fulica.	Coot, Gallinule, &c.	7
49 Parra.	Jacana	5
50 Rallus.	Rail	10
51 Psophia.	Trumpeter,	1
52 Cancroma.	Boatbill	2

* * *Pedibus cursoriis tridactylis—with feet formed for running,—three toed.*

53 Hæmatopus.	OysterCatcher	1
54 Otis.	Bustard	4
55 Charadrius.	Plover, Dotterel, &c.	12
56 Struthio.	Ostrich	3

ORDO V. ORDER V.

GALLINÆ. GALLINACEOUS BIRDS.

These have a convex bill; the superior mandible is vaulted over the inferior; the nostrils are half covered with a convex cartilaginous membrane; the feet are divided, but connected at the inmost joint.

Generum Nomina.	*English Names.*	*Number of Species*	*Generum Nomina.*	*English Names.*	*Number of Species.*
57 Didus.	Dodo	1	62 Phasianus.	Pheasant, Cock, Hen, &c.	6
58 Pavo.	Peacock,	3			
59 Meleagris.	Turkey	3			
60 Crax.	Curaçoa,	5	63 Tetrao.	Partridge, Grouse, Quail, &c.	20
61 Numida.	Guinea Hen.	1			

ORDO VI. ORDER VI.

PASSERES. SPARROWS.

These have a conical sharp pointed bill; the nostrils are oval, wide, and naked.

* *Crassirostres—with thick bills.*

65 Fringilla.	Finch, Canary Bird, &c.	39	64 Loxia.	Grosbeak &c.	48
			66 Emberiza.	Bunting, Ortolan, &c.	24

** *Curvirostres—with curved bills.*

67 Caprimulgus.	Goat Sucker,	2	68 Hirundo.	Swallow, Martin, Swift,	12
			69 Pipra.	Manakin,	13

*** *Emarginatirostres—with emarginated bills.*

70 Turdus.	Thrush, Blackbird, Fieldfare, &c.	28	71 Ampelis.	Chatterer,	7
			72 Tanagra.	Tanager,	24
			73 Muscicapa.	Fly-catcher,	21

**** *Simplicirostres—with simple bills.*

74 Motacilla.	Warbler, Nightingale, Redbreast, &c.	49	75 Parus.	Titmouse,	14
			76 Alauda.	Lark	11
			77 Sturnus.	Starling	5
			78 Columba.	Pigeon	40

The GENERIC CHARACTERS OF BIRDS are taken from the peculiarities in the bill, the nostrils, the tongue, the feet, the feathers, the face, the figure of the body, &c.

The SPECIFIC CHARACTERS are very various; they consist in the colour of the particular feathers, or parts of feathers; crests of feathers on the head disposed in different manners; the colour of the cere or wax; the colour of the feet; the shape and length of the tail; the number, situation, &c. of the toes; the colour and figure of the bill, &c.

The VARIETIES of the same SPECIES are still farther distinguished by more minute and slighter shades of difference.

The limits to which I am restricted will not permit me to name *all* the species which are arranged under each genus of the preceding orders; but an account of the most striking SPECIES of each genus, as well as of those in the additional genera of Dr. LATHAM, will be, nevertheless, found in the subsequent NOTES, so that it is hoped nothing of importance in the NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS has been omitted.

It will now be necessary that we should advert to some other arrangements.

Mr. PENNANT classed BIRDS, first, into TWO grand divisions—LAND-BIRDS and WATER-BIRDS. These he again divided into *nine* ORDERS, of which the LAND-BIRDS formed SIX,—namely, RAPACIOUS; PIES; GALLINACEOUS; COLUMBINE; PASSERINE; STRUTHIOUS. The WATER-BIRDS THREE, —namely, CLOVE-FOOTED or WADERS; PINNATED FEET; and WEB-FOOTED.

The number of genera in the Linnean arrangement is seventy-eight; of Mr. PENNANT'S, ninety-five; of Dr. LATHAM'S, in the last edition of his work, 112*.

The system of BRISSON is apparently, at least, more scientific than any of the preceding; the divisions are more numerous, and, therefore, less liable to exceptions. His first divisions are two,—namely, CLOVEN-FOOTED and WEB-FOOTED. The first of these he divides into *seventeen* orders, and *eighty-five* genera; the second into *nine* orders and *twenty-eight* genera. This system does not, however, seem to have obtained much attention; yet the number of the genera nearly coincides with that of Dr. LATHAM, who appears to have followed and improved upon Mr. PENNANT's arrangement. His *divisions* and *orders* are similar in name and number to those of Mr. PENNANT; but he, nevertheless, differs from him in many particulars; his genera are also more numerous. The whole number of birds enumerated by LINNÆUS specifically, is only 930, while those described by Dr. LATHAM in his recently published work amount to about 5000! And future discoveries must necessarily increase them.

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* *General History of Birds*, by JOHN LATHAM, M.D. &c. &c., in *ten volumes, 4to. with nearly two hundred plates.* This intelligent and venerable naturalist resides at Winchester: his work has been for many years before the public; it has undergone, from time to time, considerable improvement.

But it should be observed, that although Dr. LATHAM has added to the *number* of the genera; this addition arises in part from his dividing some of the genera of LINNÆUS into two or more. Thus the genus *Motacilla* or WARBLER, he has divided into *Motacilla* or WAGTAIL, and *Sylvia* or WARBLER; *Tetrao* or PARTRIDGE he has divided into three, namely, *Tinamus* or TINAMOU, *Tetrao* or GROUSE, and *Perdix* or PARTRIDGE; *Struthio* he has also divided into four,—*Struthio* or AFRICAN OSTRICH, *Casuarius* or CASSOWARY, *Didus* or DODO, and *Rhea* or AMERICAN OSTRICH; he has also divided the SNIPE, *Scolopax*, from the CURLEW, which he calls *Numenius*; he has, again, erected the GREBE, *Podiceps*, the GALLINULE, *Gallinula*, and the GUILLEMOT, *Uria*, into separate genera; he has also separated the PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus*, from *Tringa* or LAPWING, &c. Besides which, he has added other new genera, as will be seen on reference to the following *synopsis* of his work.

In justice to Dr. LATHAM it ought to be stated, that there has been latterly evinced, among our ornithologists, a disposition to follow his alterations, which seem more consonant with the natural arrangement that it should be our aim to discover and to exhibit. Whether the *Quinary* system, hereafter to be noticed, will ultimately supersede all other arrangements, remains yet to be seen. As, however, the work of Dr. LATHAM is one of the most voluminious and valuable that has ever been published on ornithology, and as every student who desires to be deeply imbued with a knowledge of the science ought to consult it, a list of all the names of the genera, and of the number of the species described under each genus in that work, is here presented to the reader in one view.

A SYNOPSIS OF DR. LATHAM'S LAST WORK ON BIRDS.

The *Latin* names of the GENERA, are supplied, in part, from the INDEX ORNITHOLOGICUS of Dr. LATHAM, and the remainder from private information, kindly communicated by Dr. L., from his MS. copy of a new edition of the *index* not yet published.

AVIUM GENERA.	GENERA OF BIRDS.
DIV. I.	DIVISION I.
AVES TERRESTRES.	LAND BIRDS.

ORDO I.

ACCIPITRES OR RAPACIOUS.

BILL incurvated, the upper mandible hooked, with an indentation near the tip; NOSTRILS, for the most part, open; FEET made for perching, strong, short; BODY, HEAD, and NECK, muscular; SKIN thick; FLESH impure; FOOD obtained by rapine or preying on carrion; NEST built on trees or elevated places; **Eggs** generally four in number: **Female** larger: monogamous.

Generum Nomina.	*English Names.*	*Number of Species.*	*Generum Nomina.*	*English Names.*	*Number of Species.*
1 Vultur.	Vulture,	32	3 Strix.	Owl	83
2 Falco.	Falcon	237	4 Secretarius.	Secretary,	1

ORDO II.
PICÆ.

ORDER II.
PIES.

Bill sharp edged, upper mandible convex: **Feet** made for walking; short, strong: **Body** somewhat tenacious; **Flesh** impure: **Food** various: **Nest** on trees: the male feeds the female while sitting: monogamous.

* *With legs made for walking.*

5 Lanius.	Shrike,	122	19 Paradisea.	Paradisea Bird,	20
11 Buphaga.	Beef Eater,	2	30 Sitta.	Nuthatch,	22
13 Musophaga.	Plaintain Eater,	2	32 Upupa.	Hoopoe,	13
14 Callœas.	Wattle Bird,	1	34 Anthophagus.	Honey Eater.	70
15 Corvus.	Crow,	71	35 Certhia.	Creeper,	102
16 Coracias.	Roller,	26	36 Trochilus.	Humming Bird,	95
17 Oriolus.	Oriole,	61			
18 Gracula.	Grakle.	59			

* * *With climbing feet.*

6 Psittacus.	Parrot,	239	21 Bucco.	Barbet,	29
7 Ramphastos.	Toucan,	18	22 Pogonius.	Barbican,	6
8 Momotus.	Motmot,	2	23 Polophilus.	Coucal,	17
9 Scythrops,	Channel Bill,	1	24 Phœnicophaus.	Malkoha,	5
12 Crotophaga.	Ani,	4	25 Cuculus.	Cuckoo,	8
20 Trogon.	Curucui,	10	26 Yunx,	Wryneck,	1
			27 Picus.	Woodpecker,	91
			28 Galbula.	Jacamar,	5

* * * *Feet made for leaping.*

10 Buceros.	Horn-bill,	27	31 Todus.	Tody,	29
29 Alcedo.	King's-fisher,	60	33 Merops.	Bee-eater,	40

ORDO III.
PASSERES.

ORDER III.
PASSERINE.

Bill conic-acuminated: **Feet** salient, slender, cloven: **Body** tender: in those which are granivorous the flesh is pure, in others, feeding on insects, impure: **Food** obtained from trees, as seeds, or insects: **Nest** curiously constructed: the **Food** put into the mouth of the young by the parents: monogamous: many of these are songsters.

* *With thick bills.*

41	Loxia.	Grosbeak,	121
42	Emberiza.	Bunting,	82
44	Fringilla.	Finch, -	150
45	Phytotoma,	Plant-cutter,	2

* * *With curved bills, the upper mandible bent at the tip.*

40	Colius.	Coly, -	11
50	Pipra.	Manakin,	43
52	Hirundo.	Swallow,	66
53	Caprimulgus.	Goat-sucker,	40

* * * *With bills, having the upper mandible emarginated at the top.*

38	Turdus.	Thrush,	234
39	Ampelis.	Chatterer,	28
43	Tanagra.	Tanager,	61
46	Muscicapa.	Fly-catcher,	177

* * * * *Simple-billed, bill strait, integral, attenuated.*

37	Sturnus.	Starling,	37
47	Alauda.	Lark, -	55
48	Motacilla.	Wagtail,	25
49	Sylvia.	Warbler,	298
51	Parus.	Titmouse,	38

ORDO IV. ORDER IV.

COLUMBA. PIGEON or COLUMBINE.

Bill rather strait, swelling at the base; **Feet** formed for walking, short; **Nails** simple; **Body** plump; **Flesh** savoury; **Food** grass, fruits, and seeds, swallowed whole; **Nest** ill constructed, placed in trees, hollows of rocks, &c.; **Eggs** two in number; the mother feeds the young with grain made soft in the crop, and ejected into their mouths; monogamous.

54	Columba.	Pigeon,	136

ORDO V. ORDER V.

GALLINÆ. GALLINACEOUS.

Bill convex, the upper mandible arched over the lower, having a convex cartilaginous membrane over the nostrils; **Feet** made for walking; **Toes** rough beneath; **Body** plump, muscular; **Flesh** savoury; **Food** grain of all kinds, collected from the ground and macerated in the crop; **Nest** made on the bare ground without art; **Eggs** numerous; the young as soon as hatched, take of themselves the food pointed out by the parents; polygamous.

** With four toes.*

55	Pavo.	Peacock,	7	61	Phasianus.	Pheasant,	24
56	Meleagris.	Turkey,	2	62	Tinamus.	Tinamou,	15
57	Penelope.	Guan,	11	63	Tetrao.	Grouse,	27
58	Numida.	Pintado,	4	64	Perdix.	Partridge,	91
59	Crax.	Curaçoa,	8	65	Psophia.	Trumpeter,	3
60	Menura.	Menura,	1				

** * With three toes.*

66 Otis. Bustard, 17

ORDO VI.

ORDER VI.

STRUTHIONES.

STRUTHIOUS.

BILL subconic, strait, tip various; **BODY** shapeless, ponderous, scarcely edible; **WINGS** small, useless for flight, or none visible; **FEET** made for running, strong; **TOES** various in number; **FOOD** grain and vegetables; **NEST** on the ground; monogamous.

** With four toes.*

67 Didus. Dodo, - 3

** * With three toes placed forwards.*

68 Rhea. Emeu, - 1 | 69 Casuarius. Cassowary, 3

** * * With two toes placed forwards.*

70 Struthio. Black Ostrich, 1

DIV. II.

DIVISION II.

AVES AQUATICÆ.

WATER BIRDS.

ORDO VII.

ORDER VII.

GRALLÆ.

WADERS.

With cloven feet.

BILL sub-cylindric; **FEET** cloven; **THIGHS** half naked; **BODY** compressed; **SKIN** very tender; **TAIL** short; **FLESH** savoury; **FOOD** in marshy places, fish, marine insects, *molluscæ*, &c.; **NEST** chiefly on land, sometimes on trees; mode of pairing various.

* *With four toes.*

71	Platalea.	Spoonbill,	5
72	Palamedea.	Screamer,	2
72*	Cariama.	Cariama, -	1
73	Mycteria.	Jabiru, -	6
74	Cancroma.	Boat-bill,	1
75	Scopus.	Umbre, -	1
76	Ardea.	Heron, -	3
77	Erodia.	Erody, -	3
78	Tantalus.	Ibis, -	32
79	Numenius.	Curlew,	15
80	Scolopax.	Snipe, -	56
81	Tringa.	Sand-piper,	76
85	Glareola.	Pratincole,	7
86	Rallus.	Rail, -	27
87	Parra.	Jacana, -	11
88	Gallinoula.	Gallinule,	41
89	Vaginalis.	Sheath-bill,	1
90	Cereopsis.	Cereopsis,	1

* * *With three toes placed forwards.*

82	Charadrius.	Plover, -	44
83	Cursorius.	Courser, -	4
84	Hœmatopus.	Oyster-catcher,	4

ORDO VIII.

GRALLÆ PINNATIPEDES.

ORDER VIII.

WADERS WITH PINNATED FEET.

BILL, BODY, and FOOD, as in the former; FEET made for wading, naked more or less above the knees; TOES cloven, but pinnated or webbed the whole of their length; NEST large, of leaves, grass, or water plants, in moist grounds, and often close to the water; monogamous.

91	Phalaropus.	Phalarope,	7
92	Pteropus.	Fin-foot, -	2
93	Fulica.	Coot, -	5
94	Podiceps.	Grebe, -	15

ORDO IX.

PALMIPEDES.

ORDER IX.

WEB-FOOTED.

Pedibus longioribus, *With long legs.*

BILL various; BODY rather depressed, conic; the FLESH of the young savoury; LEGS very long, made for wading; THIGHS naked the greater part of the length; TOES furnished half-way with a membrane; FOOD obtained from the water, as small fish and insects; NEST placed on the ground; monogamous.

95	Recurvirostra.	Avoset, -	4
96	Corrira.	Courier, -	1
97	Phœnicopterus.	Flamingo,	2

Pedibus brevioribus, *With short legs.*

BILL smooth, covered with a skin enlarged at the base; FEET made for swimming; SHINS short, compressed; the TOES united by a membrane; **Body** fat; **Skin** tenacious, covered with excellent feathers; **Flesh**, for the most part, savoury; **Food** water-plants, fishes, reptiles; **Nest** chiefly on the ground, seldom on trees; the mother rarely broods the young; for the most part, polygamous.

98	Diomedea.	Albatross,	4
99	Alca.	Auk,	13
100	Uria.	Guillemot,	6
101	Colymbus,	Diver.	9
102	Rhynchops.	Skimmer,	1
103	Sterna.	Tern,	46
104	Larus.	Gull,	27
105	Procellaria	Petrel,	30
106	Mergus.	Merganser,	5
107	Anas.	Duck,	145
108	Aptenodytes.	Pinguin,	15
109	Pelecanus.	Pelican,	39
110	Phaëton.	Tropic Bird,	4
111	Plotus.	Darter,	5

It may be here useful to the student to observe, that in the preceding arrangements, the **Orders** and **Genera** have but one name for each, respectively; as, for example, Accipitres or the Hawks, and **Falco** or the Falcon genus. Naturalists have, however, found it extremely convenient, in describing the Species of each genus, to give the *generic* and the *specific* name together, in order to that correctness of identification, without which our science would be vague. Thus, to distinguish the *Golden Eagle* from others of the same genus, but *specifically* different, it is called *Falco Chrysaëtos*, and so of all the rest of the tribe of Birds. This, at first sight, might seem a cumbrous nomenclature, but, if it be examined without prejudice, its utility will be, it is presumed, apparent. Indeed, in our *Common Nomenclature* of Birds, we have adopted, in part, a similar, yet by no means so accurate, a method: thus we have the *House Sparrow* and *Hedge Sparrow*, the *Woodlark* and *Titlark*, the *Water Rail* and *Land Rail*, *&c. &c.* Some additional observations relative to this subject will be found in the *Preface*, which see.

Having adverted to several systematic arrangements of ornithology, it is quite necessary, in an elementary sketch like the present, to notice one still more recently promulgated by NICHOLAS AYLWARD VIGORS, ESQ. M.A. and F.L.S., in a paper by him in the third part of the 14th volume *of the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*, entitled, "*Observations on the Natural Affinities that connect the Orders and Families of Birds*;" and also in several explanatory *papers* since published in the *Zoological Journal*; as well as in his Lectures at the Zoological Society, of which he is, at once, the efficient and learned *Secretary*.

In the first paper, Mr. VIGORS, in allowing to our continental neighbours the chief merit of improving the science of ZOOLOGY, observes, "that Great Britain has made ample amends for the tardy adoption of the more philosophical views of the science in the masterly use to which she applied them when once adopted, and the rapid strides by which she at once, as it were, outstripped all previous research. It has been reserved for one of her sons (Mr. W. S. MAC LEAY) to throw a new light upon the sphere of animated nature, and to bring to view a principle that pervades all her works, as beautiful as it is comprehensive. In the year 1819, the enlightened author of *Horæ Entomologicæ* (Mr. MAC LEAY) first called the attention of the lovers of the science to a principle which he discovered in a minute group of insects, and which, with a comprehensiveness of mind, and an accuracy of execution seldom united in an individual, he subsequently followed up through the whole range of animal life."

Mr. VIGORS then refers "to the great revolution which the publication of these principles has effected in *Zoology*. The system which has been traced out with so much success, by the author of *Horæ Entomologicæ*, prevails in none more conspicuously than in those of ornithology."

It appears that this new system depends upon what has been called the *Quinary arrangement of Nature*. And if it shall indeed be found, upon subsequent and more extensive investigation, that this arrangement exists absolutely in nature, the discovery of it will be of infinite importance in all our Zoological researches.

In accordance with these principles, Mr. VIGORS proposes to arrange the BIRDS in groups of FIVES, thus:

Pedibus constringentibus. Birds endowed with feet formed for grasping.	RAPTORES or BIRDS of PREY. INSESSORES or PERCHING BIRDS.
Pedibus haud constringentibus. Birds endowed with feet incapable of grasping.*	RASORES or GALLINACEOUS BIRDS. GRALLATORES or WADING BIRDS. NATATORES or WEB-FOOTED BIRDS.

To understand more easily this arrangement, two diagrams (from Mr. VIGORS' paper) are subjoined; one of the above families, and another of one of the subdivisions into which Mr. VIGORS proposes to arrange Birds. The *six* primary orders of Linnæus are by Mr. VIGORS converted into *five*, by placing the PICÆ and PASSERES together. This has been done, as it appears, in accordance with nature; but Mr. VIGORS quotes CUVIER as countenancing this arrangement. "Malgré tous mes efforts," says this celebrated naturalist, "il m'a été impossible de trouver, ni à l'extérieur, ni a l'intérieur aucun caractère propre à separer des passereaux ceux des genres compris parmi les *Picæ* de Linnæus qui ne sont pas grimpeurs."

It will not be convenient to enter into minute details of this arrangement here; those who desire more information concerning it will, of course, consult Mr. MAC LEAY, and the learned and luminous papers of Mr. VIGORS before mentioned. It may, however, be necessary to premise in reference to the first diagram, that one of the families, the RAPTORES, is still incomplete; this future inquiry may probably fill up. It may also be mentioned here as a singular coincidence, that Mrs. BARBAULD, in a poem written many years ago, expressly alludes to a *quinary* arrangement of Birds in the following lines:

---

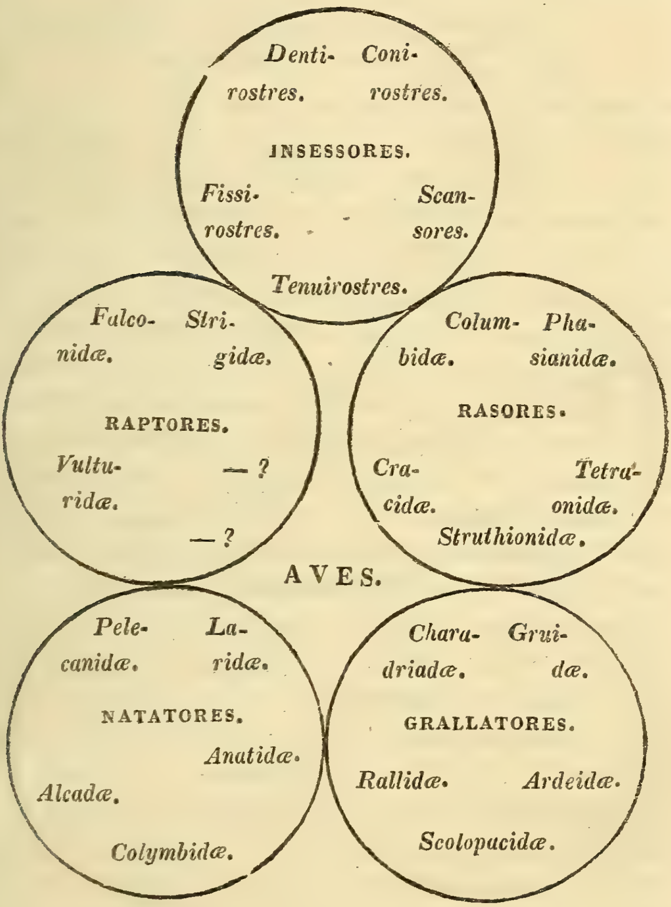
* Although this is the general character of this division, yet there will be found in it many exceptions. Some of the RASORES, as well as GRALLATORES, *perch*, and consequently *grasp*.

"Who the various nations can declare
That plough with busy wing the peopled air?
These cleave the crumbling bark for insect food;(*Insessores.*)
Those dip the crooked beak in kindred blood; (*Raptores.*)
Some haunt the rushy moor, the lonely woods; (*Grallatores.*)
Some bathe their silver plumage in the floods; (*Natatores.*)
Some fly to man, his household gods implore, (*Rasores.*)
And gather round his hospitable door,
Wait the known call, and find protection there,
From all the lesser tyrants of the air."

By this arrangement, the *first* division of the whole family of Birds, consisting of INSESSORES, RAPTORES, RASORES, GRALLATORES, and NATATORES, might be considered as CLASSES, the division of each of which into five might constitute ORDERS; and the division of each of these again into five might constitute the GENERA. So that, if the *Raptores* should, by subsequent discovery, be completed, the CLASSES, according to this arrangement, will be *five;* the ORDERS *twenty-five;* and the GENERA *one hundred and twenty-five.*

It appears, however, that MR. VIGORS thinks, by his observations in his Lectures at the Zoological Society, the quinary system is applicable to the more minute subdivisions of nature, and that the genera and species, &c. will be found to correspond in similar and continuous subdivision.

The Arrangement of Birds
Proposed by Nicholas Aylward Vigors, Esq. A.M. F.L.S.

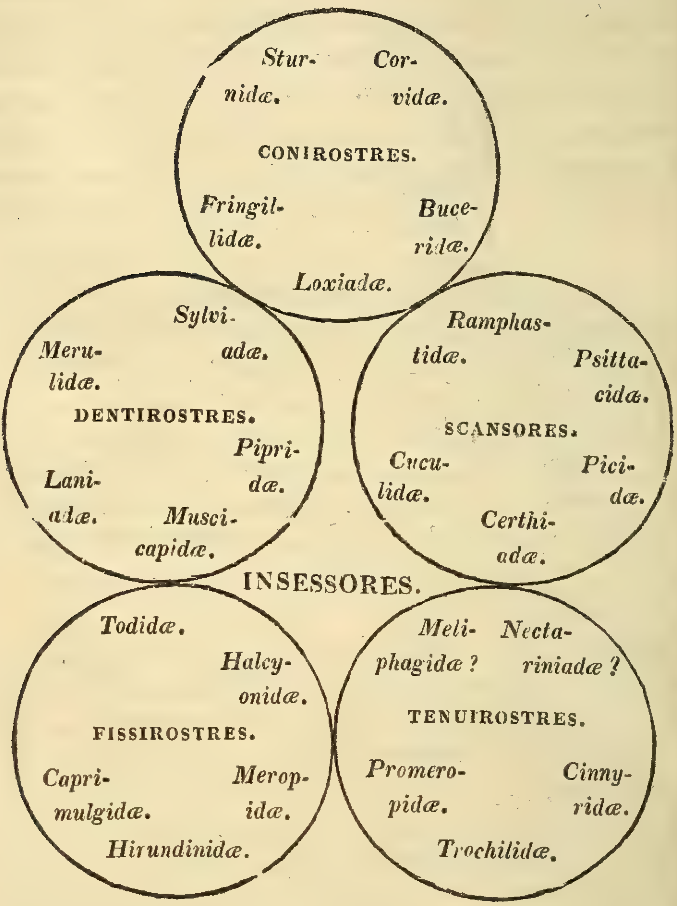

Denti-rostres.
Coni-rostres.
INSESSORES.
Fissi-rostres.
Scan-sores.
Tenuirostres.
Falco-nidæ.
Stri-gidæ.
RAPTORES.
Vultu-ridæ.
— ?
— ?
Colum-bidæ.
Pha-sianidæ.
RASORES.
Cra-cidæ.
Tetra-onidæ.
Struthionidæ.
AVES.
Pele-canidæ.
La-ridæ.
NATATORES.
Anatidæ.
Alcadæ.
Colymbidæ.
Chara-driadæ.
Grui-dæ.
GRALLATORES.
Rallidæ.
Ardeidæ.
Scolopacidæ.

Mr. Vigors divides the *Falconidæ* into five *sub-families*, thus:

Aquilina or the Eagle Tribe.
Accipitrina or the Hawk Tribe.
Falconina or the Falcon Tribe.
Buteonina or the Buzzard Tribe.
Milvina or the Kite Tribe.

The whole of the Insessors as in the following diagram.

Arrangement of the PERCHERS *by* Mr. VIGORS.


Sturnidæ.
Corvidæ.
CONIROSTRES.
Fringillidæ.
Buceridæ.
Loxiadæ.
Sylviadæ.
Merulidæ.
DENTIROSTRES.
Pipridæ.
Laniadæ.
Muscicapidæ.
Ramphastidæ.
Psittacidæ.
SCANSORES.
Cuculidæ.
Picidæ.
Certhiadæ.
INSESSORES.
Todidæ.
Halcyonidæ.
FISSIROSTRES.
Caprimulgidæ.
Meropidæ.
Hirundinidæ.
Meliphagidæ ?
Nectariniadæ ?
TENUIROSTRES.
Promeropidæ.
Cinnyridæ.
Trochilidæ.

These he again subdivides into *fives;* among which we find, as *sub-families*, *Merulina* or the THRUSH TRIBE; *Oriolina* or the ORIOLE TRIBE; *Sylviana* or the WARBLER TRIBE; *Alaudina* or the LARK TRIBE, &c. &c.

The following is the arrangement of the INSESSORES, or *Perchers*, according to Mr. MAC LEAY's plan of exhibiting a series of affinities.

Normal Group. Rostri pedisque structurâ magis perfectâ.	Dentirostres. Conirostres.
Aberrant Group. Rostri pedisque structurâ minus perfectâ.	Scansores. Tennirostres. Fissirostres.

Mr. VIGORS then divides the FISSIROSTRES, as will be seen in the last diagram, as follows:—*Meropidæ ; Hirundinidæ ; Caprimulgidæ ; Todidæ ; Halcyonidæ.*

And he adds, " the families which compose this tribe are distinguished from those of all the others, except the *Tenuirostres,* by their habit of feeding on the wing. From the latter, or suctorial birds, which meet them at one of the extremes of the tribe, and of which the typical families feed also on the wing, they are distinguished by their animal food, which they take by their bills or in the gape of their mouths; while the *Tenuirostres* live chiefly upon vegetable juices, which they extract with their tongue. The *Fissirostres,* depending so much on the powers of their wings, exhibit a proportional deficiency in the strength of their legs."

There will not be much difficulty in converting the terms proposed by Mr. VIGORS (whose scientific tact has been, in this respect, peculiarly and very happily exemplified) into *English* ones; a consideration to those who are concerned in the introduction of a *new* nomenclature of the first importance. Thus, of the five CLASSES, the *Raptores* might be RAP′TORS ; *Insessores,* INSES′SORS ; *Rasores,* RA′SORS ; *Grallatores,* GRALLA′TORS ; *Natatores,* NATA′TORS. The Quinary subdivisions or ORDERS composing the *Raptors,* may be FAL′CONIDS, VUL′TURIDS, STRI′GIDS, ; the *Insessors,* DEN′TIROSTS, CON′IROSTS, FIS′SIROSTS, TENU′IROSTS, and SCAN′SORS ; the *Rasors,* COLUM′BIDS, PHASIAN′IDS, CRA′CIDS, TETRAON′IDS, and STRUTHION′IDS ; the *Grallators,* CHARAD′RIADS, GRU′IDS, AR′DEIDS, RAL′LIDS, and SCOLOPA'CIDS; the *Natators*, LAR'IDS, PELECAN'IDS, ANAT'IDS, AL'CADS, and COLYM'BIDS. And, again, the genera composing the *Fissirosts* may be MER'OPIDS, HIRUN'DINIDS, CAPRIMUL'GIDS, TO'DIDS, and HALCYON'IDS, and so also of all the other genera. The singular of any of the preceding will of course be formed by the simple omission of the *s*. Thus, should this new nomenclature very generally prevail, it might ultimately supersede all other arrangements, and obviate, in some degree at least, the difficulties which present themselves to a beginner in the study of this branch of Natural History. We could proceed even farther in the use of the preceding terms: the *minor* might become an adjective to the *major:* and *Vulturid Raptor*, *Dentirost Insessor*, *Phasianid Rasor*, *Scansor Insessor*, or *Cuculid Scansor*, *&c.* may be aptly applied, and would convey at once the *generic* and *ordinal*, or *ordinal* and *classic* connection, *mutatis mutandis.*

It may be observed here as a curious fact, that by far the greater number of the *Pie* and *Sparrow* tribe in this country, and perhaps elsewhere, generally lay *five* eggs; the *Rook*, the *Crow*, the *Hedge-sparrow*, *Goldfinch*, *Blackbird*, *Thrush*, *&c. &c.* Those who are advocates of the *Quinary* arrangement will doubtless advance this in corroboration of the system.

These then are the chief *arrangements* which offer as most worthy of notice in the study of the Natural History of Birds. It is greatly to be lamented that no one system has yet appeared which, by its utility and simplicity, promises to supersede all others. It is however very probable that the primary arrangements proposed by Mr. VIGORS will ultimately prevail; but ingenious as those arrangements are, in an elementary work, like the present, it does not become me to adopt them to the exclusion of others which have yet considerable hold of the public mind. I must content myself with exhibiting, I hope, a faithful sketch of the science as it actually exists, rather than of what I could wish it to be.

I take leave of this part of my subject by cautioning the student not to attribute too much importance to any system of ornithology; against devoting too much attention to the *means* instead of the *end,* which, of course, is the *acquisition of the knowledge of the forms, colours, habits, songs, and manners, of Birds;* and lest, in so doing, he should incur the censure of ST. PIERRE, "*Nos ornithologistes, enchainés par leur methodes, ne songent qu' a grossir leur catalogue, et ne conoissent, dans les oiseaux, que les pattes et le bec. Ce n'est point dans les nids qu' ils les observent, mais à la chasse et dans leur gibecierè.**

From the limits to which I am confined, it will be quite impossible to enter into a minute description of the *anatomy of Birds;* but it may be observed generally, that their different structures admirably correspond to the very different functions for which they are adapted. The palmate feet of the *Water-birds* enabling them to move on and in that element with dexterity; the *wings* of many of the *land* Birds, particularly of the *Eagle,* the *Pigeon,* and *Swallow,* enabling them to take swift and long flights with the greatest ease; while again, those whose chief characteristic is running, such as the *Ostrich* or struthious tribe, have their legs and feet well adapted for such purposes, their wings being comparatively of little use. While others again, such as many of the *Waders,* and some of the *Perchers,* both fly and run with considerable speed.

One of the chief characteristics of Birds is, of course, the covering of FEATHERS. Of these there are three kinds,—the *Down,* most abundant in the aquatic tribes, particularly the *Duck*, *Goose*, *Eider Duck*, *&c.*;—the *small* feathers, which fall over each other like the tiles of a roof, and thus conduct away the water;—and the *quills*; these last form the wings and the tail, the *largest* of which, in the wings, are called *primary*, and are usually about eight or ten in number; the *smaller* are termed *secondary*; and the *smallest*, by some naturalists, are called *tertial*. From the first kind, the primaries, most of our writing pens are obtained; and, it may be mentioned, that these vary much in their shape and size, so that those conversant with the quills of Birds, generally know and esteem the *third* quill for a writing pen as the best; it being one of the longest and largest.

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* *Etudes de la Nature,* tom. iii., page 506, Hamburgh edit. 1797.

The feathers of birds are, in general, renewed annually; the process of renewal, termed *moulting*, takes place, it is said, generally during the autumn and winter; and, by the return of spring it is completed, and the plumage looks fresh and beautiful. It is also in some birds considerably altered in colour at certain seasons, particularly that in which the operation of procreation takes place; so that, without an acquaintance with the fact, the birds would not at such times be at all recognized as the same seen at another season; and, generally, it may be stated that the plumage of all birds, in European climates at least, is most vivid, intense, and striking, in the spring, as if nature designed that the season of love should be that in which health, vigor, and beauty, may at once predominate.

Some of the annually *migratory* birds, such as the *Nightingale*, Mr. SWEET informs me, moult *twice* in the year, namely, in spring and autumn: the reason for this would seem to be, that as such birds take, most probably, long flights, both at their coming and departure, their feathers are then in the best condition for such journies. But on this subject, as well as on numerous others in Natural History, we want a record of more observed facts relative to Birds in their NATURAL STATE.

The moulting season, however, of *Wild Ducks, Wild Geese, Teals, Widgeons*, and other *water fowl*, seems to be, by an act of parliament relative to these Birds, (10 G. 2, c. 32,) from June 1 to October 1; and, certainly, it appears more natural and agreeable to the bird that its feathers should be shed when the weather is warm than at any other period. The time in which this process takes place may be, and frequently is, considerably altered by art and domestication.

Birds are sometimes, during this natural process, very much indisposed; at least those in confinement are so. The bird-catchers of London have a method of producing an artificial moulting of Birds, by shutting them up in a dark cage for a month, with little or no food, closely wrapt up in woollen, allowing their dung to remain to increase the heat. This process is called *stopping*. By it, I understand, many a suffering bird is destroyed; but, it is said, the song and plumage of those who survive are much improved by the operation. Words are inadequate to designate the cruelty and folly of such practice.

As connected with the feathers of Birds, it may also be appropriate to observe here, that they have a gland, or rather *two* glands, united by one excretory duct, on the rump, about which grows a small tuft of feathers somewhat like a painter's pencil. In these glands is secreted a mucous oil, which can be pressed out by the bill of the bird. Whenever therefore the feathers are discomposed, the bird, turning its head backward, catches hold of the glands with its bill, and forces out the oil, with which it anoints the feathers, and replaces them in due order. Domestic birds are not furnished with so large a portion of this fluid as those which live in the open air. The feathers of the former are pervious to every shower, while Swans, Geese, Ducks, and all those which live upon the water, have their feathers dressed with the oil from the first day of leaving the shell: where this oil abounds, it usually renders the bird rank, and sometimes very unpalatable as food.

Thomson, in his *Spring*, thus alludes to this oleous unction:

> "Hush'd in short suspense,
> The plumy people streak their wings with oil,
> To throw the lucid moisture trickling off,
> And wait the approaching sign to strike at once
> Into the general choir."

These oleous glands become sometimes diseased and tumefied; the complaint is commonly denominated the *Pip*. It is generally remedied by a simple puncture, by which the collected fluid may be discharged.

The Bones of birds vary in many particulars from those of the mammalia. The chief difference, however, is, that of the *Sternum* or BREAST-BONE, which covers not only what is called, in the mammalia, the thoracic viscera, but also a considerable portion of the rest of the intestines. This bone, in all the birds which fly, is distinguished by a long ridge or keel, to which muscles may be and are attached, to facilitate their flight; that this keel is for such purpose there can be no doubt, as in birds which do not fly, the Ostrich for instance, the keel in the sternum is altogether wanting. The cervical vertebræ are also much more numerous in birds than in the mammalia, arising, of course, from their greater length of neck. And the rings in the

Trachea, which in man do not amount to twenty, in the Ostrich lately dissected at the Zoological Society, it was about four feet long, and the rings in it were more than two hundred. The *sternum* in the Ostrich is not only without the keel, but it is exceedingly small when compared to its size in that of other Birds.

Although Birds have only two legs, yet the bones of their wings, when examined anatomically, correspond in a grea degree with the fore limbs of many of the mammalia. It is chiefly in their use and covering that they differ from quadrupeds and man. But the bones of Birds differ in another particular, namely, they are most of them hollow, and have communication with the air cells in their bodies, by which they are rendered more buoyant.

Birds have no external ears, a few of the Owl tribe excepted, although their organs of *hearing* are, beyond question, acute, as their various notes and modulations of sound sufficiently evince. It has, however, been supposed, that they have no idea of *harmony,* as they never sing in concert; they nevertheless imitate sounds with great facility; so much so, indeed, that Mr. BARRINGTON (see below,) thinks *all* the notes of song birds are *imitations.* It is chiefly, I apprehend, on this sense, and on that of *sight*, that birds depend for their safety and preservation. The *touch*, *taste*, and *smell,* being in the generality of the tribe of a secondary order.

The organ of *smell* is said in the *Gannet* to be wanting; but, in most birds, there is no reason to think that the organ is absent; yet, notwithstanding it has been generally supposed that this sense is active in the *rapacious* tribes, particularly the *Vulture,* some late observations seem distinctly to show that, in the pursuit of his prey, the Vulture is guided by his sight rather than by his smell. Still there is reason to believe, that many of the rapacious tribe are assisted in discovering their prey by the sense of smell. See forwards an anecdote of the Eagle related by Mr. Brookes.

While the *touch*, *taste*, and *smell*, of Birds generally, are certainly not of the first order, their *sight* is extremely acute. The *Hawk*, and others of the *Falcon* genus, can, at a considerable distance, discern an animal, a lark, or a mouse, upon the ground, and pounce upon it with celerity and certainty.

Anatomists have, it is said, observed in the eye of Birds a particular expansion of the optic nerve, which renders the impression of visible objects more vivid and distinct. To protect the eye, and, perhaps, also to moderate its extreme sensibility, this organ is furnished in many birds with what is called a *nictitating membrane*, with which the bird can, at will, cover the pupil of the eye while the eyelids remain open; and hence the Eagle, and some other birds, are enabled to bear, by the assistance of this covering, the strongest light of the sun.

Birds have neither *epiglottis*, *diaphragm*, *urinary bladder*, nor *scrotum*.

The *lungs*, which are two red, oblong, spongy bodies, attached in the thorax chiefly to the spinal column, are not divided into lobes; they are covered with a membrane, or *pleura*, which communicates by many openings with large vesicles or air bags, that are dispersed over the abdomen as well as the thorax. By these, birds can, at pleasure, render their bodies more buoyant, and thus ascend to a considerable height, or skim along in the air with a celerity that far outstrips the swiftest steed. The cavity of the thorax of birds is much larger in proportion than that of other animals, much of which is not filled with the lungs, but with air. This, and the thin porous nature of their bones, many of which are filled with air instead of marrow, and in several instances communicate directly with the lungs, add, of course, to their facility of flight. Even the bones of the Ostrich, although this bird cannot fly, are hollow; and he is also furnished with air vesicles similar to other birds, which, notwithstanding he cannot leave the earth, enable him, by the assistance of his powerful and muscular legs, to run with astonishing swiftness. Mr. GREEN informed us in his *Lectures on the comparative anatomy of Birds at the College of Surgeons*, (April, 1827,) that in *young* birds a medullary substance was often observable in the bones, but that, as they grew up to maturity, it became absorbed, and the bone empty.

It may be stated, too, that the *blood* of Birds is generally of a brighter colour, and warmer, than that found in the mammalia, and that it circulates with much more rapidity. While the *Horse* has about *forty* pulsations in a minute, *man* from *seventy* to *eighty*, in *Birds* they vary from *one hundred* to *one hundred* and *ten*. From the extreme mobility and activity of Birds, it would seem that they are more highly oxygenated than other animals; in addition to which it may be mentioned, that Birds consume more food in proportion to their size, in a given period, than any other race of animals.

Perhaps, however, one of the most striking peculiarities in the anatomical structure of Birds is the *stomach*. In those whose food consists principally of grain and seeds, the stomach is cartilaginous, and covered with very strong muscles: in this state it is called a *gizzard*. This structure is necessary, in order that, by its strong action, the food should be comminuted; but, besides this, birds with such stomachs pick up and swallow, occasionally, small gravel stones, which assist the process of comminution. In a state of nature, the quantity of gravel taken in is regulated, no doubt, by the sensation of the stomach; but in domesticated animals this faculty is sometimes deranged. Young Ducks have been known to take so much gravel as to produce death.

On the contrary to those Birds that are carnivorous or piscivorous, a *membranaceous* stomach is given, which more resembles that of carnivorous quadrupeds; the digestion of such Birds being more accelerated by the gastric juice than by the action of the stomach itself.

Those Birds belonging to the first class digest or retain every substance taken in; and those which eject or disgorge innutricious matter unavoidably taken in, such as feathers, fur, bones, &c. belong to the second class, conspicuous in the Eagle and Owl tribes, and those also that feed on fish. The *innutricious* matter, termed *Castings,* which is ejected by Eagles, Owls, &c. descends most probably no farther than the *crop* in which the nutritive from the innutritive portion of the food is separated.

It ought also be mentioned, as a remarkable fact, that the rapacious birds seldom or never drink. Eagles, Hawks, and Owls, were kept by COLONEL MONTAGU for years without tasting water.

Besides the stomach, most Birds have a membranous sac, capable of considerable distension; it is usually called a CROP, (by the scientific *Ingluvies,*) into which the food first descends after being swallowed. This bag is very conspicuous in the granivorous tribes immediately after eating. Its chief use seems to be to soften the food before it is admitted into the gizzard. In *young fowls* it becomes sometimes preternaturally distended, while the Bird pines for want of nourishment. This is produced by something in the crop, such as straw, or other obstructing matter, which prevents the descent of the food into the gizzard. In such a case, a longitudinal incision may be made in the crop, its contents removed, and, the incision being sewed up, the fowl will, in general, do well.

Another curious fact relative to this subject was stated by Mr. BROOKES, when lecturing on BIRDS at the *Zoological Society*, May 1827. He had an Eagle, which was at liberty in his garden: happening to lay two dead rats, which had been poisoned, under a pewter bason, to which the Eagle could have access, but who nevertheless did not see him place the rats under it, he was surprised to see, some time afterwards, the crop of the Bird considerably distended; and finding the rats abstracted from beneath the bason, he concluded that the Eagle had devoured them. Fearing the consequences, he lost no time in opening the crop, took out the rats, and sewed up the incision: the Eagle did well and is now alive. A proof this of the acuteness of smell in the Eagle, and also of the facility and safety with which, even in grown Birds, the operation of opening the crop may be performed.

The rapacious Birds, and some others not granivorous, have also crops, but they vary considerably in form, and, of course, in size. The crop of the Pigeon is peculiar, consisting of two divisions; the secretion in which, at certain times, is not less peculiar than its structure. It appears that, as soon as the young Birds are hatched, a whitish-ash-coloured fluid is there secreted, both in the male and female, in abundance, with which they feed for some time the young before they feed them with grain; so that, although *Pigeon's milk* would be considered a solecism, yet this fluid seems to be very much like milk in its properties. The Pigeon, when at maturity, is, perhaps, the most purely granivorous of all the tribes of Birds. But many of the granivorous Birds feed their *young* with *insects* and *worms*. Indeed, there are very few Birds, generally esteemed granivorous, that are wholly so. The common *Cock* and *Hen*, although devouring much grain, devour also many worms and flies; and, unquestionably, if left to themselves, would direct the attention of their young to such food. And although the chicken of the common hen will pick up and digest grain, yet, it may be stated, generally, that animal food is most suitable to very young birds. The reason for this is apparent: animal food most readily assimilates with the fluids of their bodies with the least efforts of the digestive powers. In this respect, therefore, birds do not differ very essentially from the mammalia.

In connexion with this subject, it may be mentioned here, that, in most birds, the canal between the crop and gizzard enlarges considerably before it opens into the last-named receptable: this enlargement is named the *Proventriculus;* its shape varies greatly in different birds; but, in all, it contains numerous glands, in which is secreted an acid liquor that mixes with the food, and, doubtless, greatly assists the process of digestion; and is of course analogous to, if not identically the same as, the *gastric juice* found in the stomach of the *mammalia.*

The structure of the *trachea* of birds is also, particularly in those of the *songsters*, peculiar; there being a larynx both at the top, or opening, into the mouth, and another at the bottom, just before the trachea separates into two divisions, to communicate with the right and left lung; it is in the *lower* larynx that the chief arrangement is found by which those varieties and niceties in sound are produced, so beautifully exemplified in the notes of our singing birds, and for which it is so ingeniously and curiously adapted, but which it is not necessary here to describe. The trachea is also, in some others of the tribe, peculiar in another respect. See the account of the *Demoiselle Heron*, note 23, Part I.

The *liver* is largest in those birds whose respiratory organs are the least; hence Mr. GREEN, in his *Lectures at the College of Surgeons* before alluded to, conjectures that the office of that viscus, (not only in birds, but also in the *mammalia*,) besides its known one of secreting the bile, is *to effect some material change in the blood*, and, thence, he considers it as a subsidiary or ventral lung.

The *absorbent vessels* in birds arise from the villous coat of the intestines in a similar way to those in the mammalia. Here again, Mr. GREEN thinks, that they give out their contents to the blood not only by means of the *thoracic duct*, but also by *many other communications* which they have in different parts of the body with the veins.*

There is no doubt, however, that the food as well as the natural habits of birds may be greatly altered by domestication, as well as other causes; when a corresponding change in the structure of the stomach may be presumed, and has been occasionally observed. Eagles have been supported wholly on bread. Mr. SOUTHEY informs me, that some lads having taken a young *Owl* in the neighbourhood of *Keswick Lake*, they fed him with fish, which he liked well and throve upon. Mr. SOUTHEY thinks this fact indicative of the same sympathy or kindred likings as those of the cat;—both it is well known feed upon *mice*. The youths living beside the lake, and being fond of fishing, they could take small perch in any quantity, and thus it happened that the Owl, for convenience, was fed upon this diet.

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* This was mentioned by Mr. GREEN in his Lectures, chiefly for the purpose of exciting attention to the conjecture; namely, that not only in birds, but also in *man*, the absorbents pour their contents into the blood by *many other communications with it*, besides that directly of the *thoracic duct*.

Besides such changes in their food produced by domestication, other changes from the same cause may be occasionally observed. Some of the song birds will sing *at night* if placed in considerable light. This may be seen exemplified in some of the bird-shops of the metropolis, where, frequently, not only in the spring, but also in the month of November, (I have heard them on the 20th of this last month,) many of the song birds are as lively and harmonious at nine o'clock at night as in any part of the day.

Birds, having no urinary bladder, as above stated, do not eject the fluid secreted in the kidneys, in the same way as the mammalia, they having no organ for such purpose. The kidneys in birds are considerably elongated, and much larger in proportion to their size than those in the mammalia; this enlarged size has been supposed necessary in consequence of there being little or no transpiration by the skin, much of the fluids which pass off by this process in the mammalia, passing off in birds, it is supposed, by means of the kidneys; but the secretion from these glands is discharged directly from them into the rectum, and thence ejected with the fæces, over which it may be seen, a whitish substance, that afterwards assumes a chalky appearance. The Ostrich has, however, it is said, a sort of urinary bladder.

The manner in which birds SLEEP may also be noticed. The *Pie* and *Sparrow* tribe, denominated by Mr. VIGORS INSESSORES or *Perchers,* usually sleep standing on one leg upon some tree, bush, or other elevation, with the head turned behind, and the bill thrust under the feathers on the back, or under the wing. Indeed, these appears to be the general habits of the whole race of birds in regard to their mode of resting and sleep: for the Duck and Goose, although they do not perch, will frequently sleep standing on one leg upon the ground, with their heads turned round, and the bills under the wings. The common Cock and Hen, although they invariably perch, if a perch can be obtained, do not, when sleeping, rest usually on one leg, but they sink down with their bodies upon the perch, having their legs compressed under them. The common Field Lark sleeps upon the ground with his legs also similiarly compressed. It is probable also, that all the tribe of birds, even the Perchers, occasionally sink down with their bodies resting on the perch during their soundest sleep. And, what is very remarkable in the structure of their feet and legs, the greater the weight upon the muscles, the more firmly the claws grasp whatever they lay hold of; hence the cause that birds do not fall down in sleep although most of their senses are dormant.

The motion of the branches of trees produced by the wind increases, doubtless, the disposition for sleep in many birds; this may be exemplified in the Common Fowl: for placing its bill under the wing, even in broad daylight, and swaying it to and fro in the hand for a very short time, will produce sleep: a beautiful proof of the adaptation of birds to the function.

Most of the tribe of birds sleep during the night; but there are many exceptions to this. *Owls* in particular are, during the night, much more active than in the day; their *sight*, similar to that of cats, appears to serve them best in the dark. Many of the *Duck* tribe are not only wakeful, but feed during the night; so also do the *Goat-suckers.* The *Nightingale*, and a few other song birds, are also wakeful while in song, during, at least, some portion of the night; and even the *Cuckoo* will be occasionally found a nightly songster, although much more rarely so than the Nightingale.

It should be noted, too, that in almost every species, the *male* is peculiarly distinguished from the *female*, so that those, conversant with the subject, readily know the one from the other. The males of many of the tribe have more gaudy and vivid colours on their plumage; the male is also very often larger than the female. This may be strikingly seen in the *Common Cock* and *Hen*, the *Turkey*, and the *Pheasant*.

In the *rapacious* tribes, on the contrary, the *female* is generally larger than the *male*. WILSON informs us that the female of the *Strix Virginianus*, or GREAT HORNED OWL, is four inches longer than the male; and in some of the *Falcon* genus the difference is more considerable than this.

Sometimes, however, these distinguishing marks are by no means so apparent. The COCK BLACKBIRD is known chiefly by his intensely yellow bill, and the superior black jet of his plumage. The distinction between the *Hen* and *Cock* THRUSH is not very strongly marked; and that of the *Cock* and *Hen* PINTADO, or GUINEA FOWL, is so slight, that nothing but close observation will ascertain it. This last bird is a native of Africa, and although domesticated in this country, it rarely, if ever, acquires the habits and docility of the *Domestic Fowl*. The female, if left to herself, invariably seeks some place for her nest distant and apart from the rest of the poultry; and, what is very remarkable, she deposits her eggs on the bare ground. This bird does not conform itself in its habits to climate like some others; hence, in England, it is a very bad protector of its own offspring.

The pairing of birds is also a subject which deserves attention in their Natural History. While some are *mono-*

gamous, and of course pair, others are *polygamous*, and never, unless compelled, confine themselves to individual association.

All the *rapacious* tribes belong to the monogamous class; the same may be said of the *Perchers;* the *Pigeon* tribe are also generally monogamous; so also appear to be all the *struthious* class; but the *aquatic* birds and *waders* vary in this respect; some are monogamous; others polygamous. The gallinaceous tribe are generally polygamous. Although the puerile notion that birds pair on Valentine's day in this country is not, of course, entitled to the slightest credit, yet there is no question, however, that about that period, or sooner or later in the spring, many birds cease their gregarious association, and meet only in pairs for the performance of the important office of incubation and rearing their young. Whether this association in pairs continue for more than one season by the same birds does not appear to be yet accurately ascertained. The Cuckoo is also said to be a polygamist; but we do not yet know sufficient of the habits of this bird.

There is one other fact relative to the change in the plumage of birds which may be mentioned here, namely, that sometimes the female assumes the feathers and appearance of the male bird; this has been noticed in the Common Hen, the Pea-hen, and a few others; and as this change has been most commonly observed in old birds, it has been attributed to *age* alone; but some late observations tend to prove that the change arises from some disease of the genital organs in female birds: for some young female birds have also been observed with male feathers; and dissections in all prove the diseased state of those organs.

Although the Periods of the Incubation of Birds are generally pretty regular, they are by no means exactly so, considerable variations having been observed in them when opportunities have been taken, or have occurred, for such notice.

It appears that, when **Turkies** have sat on the eggs of the *Hen*, the duration has been from seventeen to twenty-seven days; the same bird on its own eggs from twenty-six to twenty-nine days. **Hens** sat on *Ducks'* eggs from twenty-six to thirty-four days; on their own eggs from nineteen to twenty-four days. **Ducks** have sat from twenty-eight to thirty-two days. **Geese** from twenty-nine to thirty-three days. **Pigeons** from seventeen to twenty days. It is extremely probable that extended observation will shew still greater irregularities in the various periods of the *Incubation of Birds*, which seem to increase in duration in proportion to the size of the bird: while the *Ostrich* and *Swan* require *six* weeks, and the solitary *Dodo*, it is said, *seven*, to complete the process, the *Humming-bird* takes only about *twelve* days.

There can be little doubt that an *equability* of warmth is one of the essentials in the due process of incubation. Where the Hen frequently leaves her nest and the eggs exposed, or where the nest itself is in an unsheltered situation, the process is very often retarded, sometimes, indeed, rendered wholly unproductive. *Young* mothers are generally worse managers of their eggs and their young than those who have had more experience; in this not differing from the human subject!

Although the number of eggs which both domestic and wild birds lay before they are diposed to sit upon them, provided they are not disturbed, is generally pretty regular, yet that number may be considerably increased by removing the eggs as they are laid, leaving one or more in the nest. In domestic fowls this has been so well ascertained, that a

Hen will lay one every day for many weeks provided one only be left in the nest, although, if left to herself, she usually sits upon about fifteen. And Ray* informs us, on the authority of Dr. Lister, that a Swallow, whose usual number is about five, having the eggs subtracted in a similar way, laid nineteen successively and then gave over.

Young birds, when hatched, are of two kinds: one has down upon the body, the eyes open, and will pick up its food almost immediately on leaving the shell; such are the young of many or most of the aquatic tribes, and those of the Hen, Pheasant, Partridge, &c.; the mother by quaking or clucking calling the young's attention to its food: the nests of such birds are usually on the ground. The other kinds (those for the most part whose nests are built on some elevation) are completely naked and the eyes closed; these require to be fed by the parent bird for two, or sometimes more, weeks. The eagerness with which these all rear up their heads and open their mouths, upon the least disturbance of the nest, is truly astonishing. They however soon become covered with feathers; from one to two weeks are, in general, a sufficient time to render them full fledged and able to fly. During this period they are, of course, often covered by the parent bird. The first kind are *hived* by the mother, for some time, very often during the day, and, of course, during the night; and afterwards, at longer intervals, for two, three, and sometimes more weeks, according to the more or less genial warmth of the season.

It may be mentioned too that many of the useful or harmless tribe of birds have often two, sometimes more, broods in a season; and that their eggs are commonly more or less numerous—the Hens, the Ducks, the Partridges, &c. are peculiarly so; while the eggs of the more rapacious tribes are generally few, and hence the increase of such birds is considerably more restricted.

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* Wisdom of God manifested in the works of Creation. 8vo. 1719, page 119.

Dr. Prout found the specific gravity of new laid eggs to vary from 1080 to 1090; that eggs on being kept some time became specifically lighter than water, owing to the substitution of air for a portion of the water which escapes; that an egg exposed for two years, to ordinary circumstances, lost nearly two-thirds of its weight; that an egg loses about one-sixth of its weight during incubation; a quantity amounting to eight times as much as it loses under ordinary circumstances. Although, in the size and colours of eggs of the *same* species, there is a general conformity, yet differences occasionally occur; in some of the *titmouse* and *tail* tribe, whose eggs are usually variegated with spots, they have been seen perfectly white.

There is a very simple, yet I believe not very generally known, method of ascertaining the vitality of an egg. If, on applying the tongue to the larger end of it, warmth be felt, the egg may be presumed alive and good; if cold, the contrary, dead and bad.*

It should be also observed, that although the eggs of birds vary considerably in taste, and some are much more palatable and agreeable than others, yet none of them appears to be absolutely unwholesome as food.

In closing this short account of the incubation of birds, a singular fact must be adverted to which was first brought into public notice by Mr. YARREL, a gentleman to whom the public, as well as myself, are highly indebted for the communication of many interesting particulars concerning birds. Some of these will be found in his papers in the second volume of the *Zoological Journal*. The fact to which I allude is, that there is attached to the upper mandible of all young birds about to be hatched a *horny appendage*, by which they are enabled more effectually to make perforations in the shell, and contribute to their own liberation. This sharp prominence, to use the words of MR. YARREL, becomes opposed to the shell at various points, in a line extending throughout its whole circumference, about one third below the larger end of the egg; and a series of perforations more or less numerous are thus effected by the increasing strength of the chick, weakening the shell in a direction opposed to the muscular power of the bird: it is thus ultimately enabled, by its own efforts, to break the walls of its prison. In the common fowl, this horny appendage falls 7 off in a day or two after the chick is hatched; in the Pigeon it sometimes remains on the beak ten or twelve days; this arises, doubtless, from the young Pigeons being fed by the parent bird for some time after their being hatched; and thus there is no occasion for the young using the beak for picking up its food.

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* On my boiling in water, for a few minutes, the egg of a Guinea Hen, (*Numida Meleagris*,) which had been kept for the long period of six or seven years, the egg exploded with a report similar to that of a loud pistol: occasioned, no doubt, by the expansion of gaseous matter, arising from the decomposition of the contents of the egg.

The rapidity of the flight of Birds constitutes one of their peculiarities; some of the more swift have been known to travel many hundred leagues in a few hours. The *Pigeon*, it is well known, is a bird of very swift flight; many of the *Falcon* tribe are also very swift in their aerial motions; some of them, it is said, will fly 150 miles in an hour. The 7 *Swallows* are also very swift on the wing.

Hence, from the rapidity and power of their flight, many birds are occasionally seen in most regions of the globe; and, from the powers of flight and of swimming which many *aquatic birds* possess, they are also enabled to visit the various parts of the earth. These last, indeed, are endowed with many peculiarities and functions, which those, *without* palmate feet, never evince : the *sea*, to many of the *natatorial* tribe, being their chief abode. Even the polar regions of *floating ice* afford to many of them not only a retreat during tempestuous weather, but there they sleep, and there too they are said, occasionally, to hatch their young.

The UNDERSTANDING of BIRDS is of considerable variety : some are remarkably intelligent, while others are extremely stupid ; the WATER BIRDS, having *palmate feet*, seem to be considerably beneath the LAND BIRDS and WADERS in their intellectual powers. It appears to be also a singular fact, that the volume of brain is greater among the *Insessores*, (PERCHERS) in proportion to the size of their bodies, than in any other class, and their intelligence is, therefore, stronger:* this fact will, doubtless, obtain the attention of the *Phrenologists*.

The MALES of the various tribes (the raptorial birds excepted) are those which sing the best and make the most noise ; many of the females not singing at all or but very indifferently. There are, however, many exceptions to this : the *hen* THRUSH, *Turdus musica*, sings in its natural state, if not equal to the cock, yet very agreeably ; the *hen* BLACKBIRD, on the contrary, never sings, or at most, only mutters. I suspect too, that some of the *female* WARBLERS will be found to sing in their natural state. The *female* of the PENSILE WARBLER sings, although not equal to the *male*. The *female* REDBREAST, I believe, also sings ; the *female* SKYLARK will be found, I suspect, also to sing ; the *female* BULFINCH, Mr. SWEET informs me, (see his letter forwards) sings finely in confinement. It would be premature to lay down any law upon this subject, but it will be found, I presume, tolerably correct, that when the *male* of any species of Bird sings the *greater part* of the year, the *female* of the same species most probably also sings: instanced in the THRUSH, the PENSILE WARBLER, and, I suspect, the REDBREAST and the SKY-LARK. But here also a record of more observed facts is wanted.

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* VIGOR's Linn. Transactions, vol. xiv. page 404.

Mr. BARRINGTON (see below) thinks, that the reason why *females* do not sing is, because if they did, when sitting on their eggs, they would be discovered; this is by no means a conclusive reason; for I once discovered a Thrush's nest by hearing the parent bird sing while sitting on the eggs. Besides, as the cock and hen of many species frequently sit on the eggs in turn, the female's not singing could be no security to the nest while the cock was sitting and singing there.

Of the RAPTORIAL TRIBE, too, from many of the *females* being larger than the *males*, their noise will be found, most probably, more loud and striking than their masculine mates. But we want, on this curious subject, a record of more observed facts relative to the habits and manners of Birds in their *Natural state*. The habits and manners of *domesticated Birds* should not be depended upon, as they become, in many instances, greatly altered by confinement.

There is a paper in the *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. LXII. by the Hon. DAINES BARRINGTON relative to the SINGING of BIRDS, that every lover of Natural History should peruse; it is not capable of condensation so as to suit this Introduction. That paper ought, nevertheless, to be read with caution: for the Hon Gentleman seems to have generalized somewhat too extensively.

He says, for instance, that *female* Birds never sing; and that the song of every Bird is an *imitated* note; (*i. e.*) a note which the Bird has before heard. He considers the power of song in Birds as similar to that of language in man, and argues, that as no language is innate, so neither are the notes of Birds. I suspect, however, that although in many instances, the notes of Birds are copied, are imitations, that some will be found nevertheless not so: but here too a knowledge of more observed facts is wanted.

Mr. BARRINGTON asserts, somewhat paradoxically, it appears to me, that the inhabitants of London are better judges of the songs of Birds than the inhabitants of the country. There are *bad* observers doubtless to be found in town as well as in the country; but a *good* observer living in the country must be necessarily, from the opportunities which he possesses, a better judge than one of equal ability in town: for the knowledge acquired of Birds in confinement cannot be estimated so highly as that obtained of them in their natural state: as it can never be, with any certainty, more than a knowledge of *domesticated* Birds.

Again, Mr. BARRINGTON, speaking of the song of the *Nightingale*, says, "that, although it sings by day, the song is then confounded with that of other birds." Now, so far from this being the case, if there be any bird of song whose notes are distinguishable from other Birds when many Birds sing together, the Nightingale is that Bird: his full and sonorous modulations being most readily distinguished from the song of every other Bird.*

Birds, when in their natural state, sing only in the *spring*, (I speak of course of the Birds of the temperate regions of the globe; their habits in the torrid zone are doubtless considerably different;) to this there are, in this country, a few exceptions. The *Redbreast* sings at almost every season of the year except in severe frost. The *Thrush* too, sings during a much greater portion of the year than the Blackbird. The Thrush indeed will be found to sing occasionally, in favourable situations and fine weather, at almost every season of the year. The state of the atmosphere has unquestionably a great effect on Birds: they rarely sing in very boisterous, very wet, or very cold weather. Yet some of them will occasionally sing even during wet weather; many of the Thrush tribe do so. Mr. Bowles, in his beautiful *Sonnet to Time,* has the following simile:

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* "Il efface par l'éclat de son chant celui de tous les plumages."—ST. PIERRE, *see* the note on the Nightingale, in Part I.

> "As some lone Bird at day's departing hour,
> Sings in the sun-beam of the transient shower,
> Forgetful, though its wings be wet the while."

The Lark, *alauda arvensis*, sings too, occasionally, while it continues solitary, for many months of the year. As most Birds sing only during fair weather, we are warranted in the conclusion that their songs are the effect of pleasurable sensations. The *Missel bird* is, however, said to sing during a storm, hence it is sometimes called the *Storm Cock;* but the term *storm* should, I suspect, be interpreted *rain*: its singing in tempestuous storm is greatly to be doubted.

The Wood Thrush, the *Turdus Melodus* of Wilson, a native of North America, sings also in moist and gloomy weather; it is said, indeed, that the sadder the day the sweeter its song; our own singing Thrush is also frequently heard in wet weather; and, in the spring, many other Birds during the transient shower, as Mr. Bowles has stated.

It may be observed too, that Birds, while *gregarious,* in this country at least, rarely, if ever, sing in their natural state, although we often hear them singing in numbers in the Bird shops of the metropolis at the period when their fellow *Larks*, for instance, are associated in flocks in our fields: a proof how much their habits may be altered by domestication.

It being a fact, that Birds sing chiefly during the spring; it appears also that, in this season, they sing best during the most active period of their mutual co-operation in the work of procreation; their songs are therefore neither unpoetically, nor perhaps untruly termed *love songs.* The *Nightingale* is, it has been said, "silent till he has found a mate; his song at first is short and hesitating; he ventures not a full loud swell, till he sees the female charged with the fruits of his love. As soon as the female begins to hatch, she ceases to sing, and soon after, the male becomes silent." Mr. SWEET informs me, that he has kept *hen* Nightingales for two years in confinement, and that he never heard them sing; the probability is, therefore, that they do not sing. We want, however, more records concerning the natural history of this Bird.

The *Nightingale's song* has been generally considered, at least by the poets, as a *melancholy* one; and, from the occasional fulness of its notes and the slowness with which some of them are uttered, and when heard, too, in the night, there is assuredly, solemnity, if not melancholy, about it. Notwithstanding VIRGIL'S

"*Qualis populeâ mœrens Philomela sub umbrâ:*"

and MILTON'S

"Most musical, most melancholy."

Mr. COLERIDGE, in some beautiful verses, has endeavoured to persuade us, that it is an

"Idle thought!
In Nature there is nothing melancholy!"

I am sorry to differ from Mr. COLERIDGE, but I cannot assent to the assertion that, "there is nothing in nature melancholy!" would that it were a truth! nor can I agree to call the Nightingale's a *merry note.* Whatever may be the *feelings* of the Nightingale, we have of course no accurate means of knowing them, there is great probability that, when he sings, they are pleasurable; but it does not follow that they should be, therefore, *sprightly*. If we judge of the sounds emitted by birds from the effect which such sounds have upon ourselves, and we do, I believe, generally thus judge of them, I think there is certainly no impropriety in calling the Nightingale's a *pensive*, if not a melancholy strain.

> " Lone *Philomela* tun'd the silent grove,
> With pensive pleasure listened wakeful love."
>
> SAVAGE.

Sir WILLIAM JONES has also an elegant stanza concerning the Nightingale, the opportunity of quoting which I cannot resist:

> " Quand le *Rossignol*, par son chant
> Si rempli de tendresse,
> Pour saluer le doux printemps
> Au point du jour s'empresse."
>
> *Odes d' Hafiz*, iv.

While I am not disposed to echo the opinions of others without examination, and should consider the authority of both VIRGIL and MILTON as nothing against *fact*, yet I cannot think Mr. Coleridge in accordance with nature when he writes, "*The merry nightingale.*" The *merry lark* would, I presume, be more readily admitted; this bird's song having, according to my apprehension, much hilarity about it; so thought Sir JOHN DAVIES:

> "Early, cheerful, mounting *lark*,
> Light's gentle usher, morning's clerk,
> In merry notes delighting."
>
> *Hymns to Astrea.*

Having controverted Mr. COLERIDGE's opinion, in justice to him it ought to be stated that he does not stand alone in it. CHAUCER has

> "The *Nightingale* with so mery a note."
>
> *The Floure and the Leaf.*

Mr. Elton, too, has

"Thou trilling, soft, yet sprightly Nightingale;"

but, unfortunately, this gentleman labours under similar disadvantage with Mr. Coleridge, (see below,) he has, in the same volume, "Poems, 1804," the following lines, which I quote rather for their beauty than to prove how inconsistent some of our poets can occasionally be.

"Soft as the Nightingale's re-murmured moan,
When cradled on the branch in moonlight rest,
The mazy warblings heave her wakeful breast."

Akenside calls the song of the Nightingale, simply,

"Melodious Philomela's wakeful strain."
Pleasures of Imagination, Book iii.

The late Mr. Fox, in a letter to Lord Grey, which has been long since published, appears to have been of a similar opinion with the preceding writers. A French writer in *Le Spectacle de la Nature*, describing the *Nightingale's Song*, has taken another view of it; he says "*Le Rossignol* va du serieux au badin; d'un chant simple au gazouillement le plus bizarre; des tremblemens et des roulemens les plus légers, à des soupirs languissans et lamentables qu'il abandonne ensuite pour revenir à sa gaieté naturelle;" which implies that its song is, by turns, both gay and grave. After all, and admittting, in which there will be no difficulty, that some of the Nightingale's notes are uttered quickly, yet, from the long pauses between the different strains of the song, and many of the notes being

"Of linked sweetness long drawn out,"

it still does appear to me most extraordinary that any one should be disposed to call them *merry*, or even *sprightly*.

Yet, although I cannot admit that the Nightingale's notes are merry, I cannot assent to the cause assigned by THOMSON for her sorrowing strains, namely, that they are produced by the loss of her young; that

> "All abandoned to despair, she sings
> Her sorrows through the night."

Thomson's picture of the Nightingale, thus singing, may do very well in poetry, but it is quite irreconcilable with nature and truth. See Mr. SWEET's letter forward; and also the *note* on the *Nightingale* in the first part.

Having listened for a long time this morning, (May 10, 1826,) to the song of the Nightingale near *Hornsey-wood House*, as mentioned below, I am more strongly confirmed in the opinion I have here expressed concerning it. At the same time it should not be forgotten, that the long-drawn notes of its day-song are neither so striking, nor, perhaps, so lengthened, as those which are uttered by the same bird at midnight. In accordance with this, thus beautifully sings MILTON:

> "Now is the pleasant time,
> The cool, the silent, save where silence yields
> To the *night-warbling bird* that, now awake,
> Tunes sweetest his love-laboured song; now reigns
> Full-orb'd the moon, and with more pleasing light,
> Shadowy sets off the face of things."
> *Par. Lost*, Book v.

Milton, we see, treats the Nightingale as a *male*, while most of our poets have, following the ancients, I presume, echoed without discrimination their practice of calling him *Philomela*, and feminine, of course. It is, however, time to approach and adopt the truth as it is found in nature: but the temptation to make a lady sentimental is, it must be admitted, often too great to be resisted; and in this respect I have myself offended. See the NIGHTINGALE'S SONG.

I must just add, that Mr. COLERIDGE himself has not always been of the opinion stated above: for in his volume of poems, published in 1796, he has *an Effusion to the Nightingale*, in which is the following line:

> "Thou warblest sad thy pity pleading strains."

In conclusion, let us hear what Lord Byron says:

> "This rose to calm my brother's cares,
> A message from the Bulbul* bears;
> It says to night he will prolong
> For Selim's ear his sweetest song;
> And though his note is somewhat sad,
> He'll try, for once, a strain more glad;
> With some faint hope his altered lay,
> May sing these gloomy thoughts away."
> *Bride of Abydos.*—CANTO I.

His lordship, in a note, after alluding to the controversy as to the opinions of the ancients on the subject, adds, "I dare not venture a conjecture on the point, though a little inclined to the 'errare mallem, &c.' *if* Mr. Fox *was* mistaken."

See more concerning the Nightingale in the note on this bird in Part I. and also the following letter from Mr. Sweet, of Chelsea, a gentleman who has kept several of our birds of passage the whole year through, and has had many opportunities of observing some curious facts concerning them.

Chelsea, Dec. 7th, 1826.

SIR,

Several of my birds are now in song, though their song is not so loud nor so fine as it is when the days begin to lengthen. Those that sing at present are, two *Nightingales*, one *Redstart*, and the larger *White-throat*: the *Willow Wren* has also begun a little, but its notes are very low at present. When they are all in full song I will write to you again, as you will probably be surprised at some of their notes.

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* Bulbul: the Turkish name for the Nightingale.

As I mentioned to you when here, I once had a *female* Nightingale, which built a nest with me in a little work-basket that was put in its cage on purpose. In three days it built a very large and fine nest, which was constructed with dry leaves and pieces of mat. (it was a one-year-old bird.) It laid three eggs, on which it sat about two days, when it was almost famished for want of food; the male not being very well at the time, so that he would not feed her. She then left the nest to feed, and, when she returned, she threw out the eggs and broke them. I have no doubt but she would have succeeded well another season, but a gentleman wishing particularly to have her, I parted with her. My *Whitethroats* have often built in the cage, but have never laid; I believe the reason is, they are too fat: the male Whitethroat works at the building as much as the female, which is not the case with the Nightingale,—the female completes the whole herself.

The *Nightingale*, in confinement, only sings by night in summer; but my *Redstart* sings every night at the present time. I once had a *Redstart* that was bred up by hand from the nest, which learnt to sing the Copenhagen Waltz, which was occasionally sung to it, and it would go through regularly with the person that sung to it, only stopping occasionally to say *chipput*. This is mentioned in my account of that species in the work that I published on this tribe;* likewise of a Whitethroat that would sing for hours against a Nightingale, the same bird that is now in song at my house.

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* "*The British Warblers:* an account of the genus *Sylvia*; illustrated by six beautifully coloured figures, taken from living specimens in the author's collection, with directions for their treatment according to the author's method; in which is explained how the interesting and fine singing birds belonging to

I always find the male birds of this tribe sing more and louder when a female of the same species is in the cage with them; but the females seldom sing; I had a female Redstart which sung a little; and female Bulfinches sing as frequently as the males.

I am, Sir,
Yours, truly,
R. SWEET.

The fact that the songs of birds are prompted chiefly by love is finely described by *Thomson;* indeed, the lover of nature, and particularly of *ornithology*, can scarcely read that poet too often:

> "Up springs the *Lark*,
> Shrill voic'd and loud the messenger of morn;
> Ere yet the shadows fly, he mounted sings
> Amid the dawning clouds, and from their haunts
> Calls up the tuneful nations. Every copse
> Deep-tangled, tree irregular, and bush
> Bending with dewy moisture, o'er the heads
> Of the coy quiristers that lodge within,
> Are prodigal of harmony. The *Thrush*,
> The *Wood-lark*, o'er the kind contending throng
> Superior heard, run through the sweetest length
> Of notes; when listening *Philomela* deigns
> To let them joy, and purposes in thought
> Elate to make her night excel their day.
> The *Blackbird* whistles from the thorny brake,
> The mellow *Bulfinch* answers from the grove;
> Nor are the *Linnets*, o'er the flowering furze

this genus may be managed, and kept in as good health as any common bird whatever; by ROBERT SWEET, F.L.S. author of *Hortus Suburbanus Londinensis, &c. &c.*," 8vo.

> Pour'd out profusely, silent. Join'd to these,
> Innumerable songsters, in the freshening shade
> Of new-sprung leaves, their modulations mix
> Mellifluous. The *Jay*, the *Rook*, the *Daw*,
> And each harsh pipe discordant heard alone,
> Aid the full concert; while the *Stock Dove* breathes
> A melancholy murmur through the whole."
>
> *Spring.*

The only fault I find with the preceding lines is, they would seem to imply that the Nightingale sings only in the night, a mistake which, with all the knowledge now abroad, is very commonly made.

And here it may be observed, that although many of the bird tribe seem to prefer the vicinity of the residence of man for their domicile, yet they, for the most part, avoid cities and large towns, for one, among other reasons, because there is no food for them. There are, notwithstanding, some remarkable exceptions to this. The *House Sparrow* is to be seen, I believe, in every part of London. There is a ROOKERY in the *Tower*, and another was, till lately, in *Carlton Palace gardens;* but the trees having been cut down to make room for the improvements going on there, the Rooks have removed this spring, (1827,) to some trees behind the houses in New Street, Spring Gardens. There was also, for many years, a rookery on the trees in the church yard of *St. Dunstan's in the East*, a short distance from the Tower; the Rooks for some years past deserted that spot, owing, it is believed, to the fire that occurred a few years ago at the old Custom House. But the present spring, 1827, they have begun again to build on those trees, which are not elm, but a species of plane. There was also, formerly, a rookery on some large elm trees in the College Garden behind the Ecclesiastical Court in *Doctors'*

Commons, a curious anecdote concerning which has been recorded.*

The *Stork*, and some other of the tribe of waders, are occasionally also inhabitants of some of the continental towns.

Rooks appear to be peculiarly partial to building their nests in the vicinity of the residence of man. Of the numerous rookeries of which I have any recollection, most of them were a short distance from dwelling houses. At the present time, (March, 1827,) there is a rookery on some trees, neither very lofty nor very elegant, in the garden of the *Royal Naval Asylum*, at *Greenwich;* and although many very fine and lofty elms are in the park near, which one might naturally suppose the rooks would prefer, yet, such is the fact, there is not even one Rook's nest in Greenwich Park. Possibly the company of so large a number of boys, and the noise which they make, determine these birds in the choice of such a place for their procreating domicile.

There is also a remarkable fact related by Mr. French, on the authority of Dr. Spurgin, in the second volume of the *Zoological Journal,* which merits attention, in regard to the Rook.

A gentleman occupied a farm in Essex, where he had not long resided before numerous Rooks built their nest on the trees surrounding his premises; the rookery was much prized: the farmer, however, being induced to hire a larger farm about three quarters of a mile distant, he left the farm and the rookery; but, to his surprise and pleasure, the whole rookery deserted their former habitation and came to the new one of their old master, where they continue to flourish. It ought to be added, that this gentleman was strongly attached to all animals whatsoever, and of course used them kindly.

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* See Hone's *Every Day Book*, vol. I. page 494.

The *Swallow, Swift,* and *Martin,* seem to have almost deserted London, although they are occasionally, though not very plentifully, to be seen in the suburbs. Two reasons may be assigned for this relative to the Swallow: flies are not there so plentiful as in the open country; and most of the chimneys have conical or other contracted tops to them, which, if they do not preclude, are certainly no temptation to their building in such places; the top of a chimney being, as is well known, its favourite site for its nest. The *Martin* is also scarce in London. But, during the summer of 1825, I observed a Martin's nest against a blind window in *Goswell Street Road,* on the construction of which the Martins were extremely busy in the early part of the month of August. I have since seen many Martins, (August, 1826,) busily engaged in skimming over a pool in the Fields, to the south of Islington: most of these were, I conjecture, young birds, as they were brown, not black; but they had the *white* on the rump, which is characteristic of the species. A few days afterwards I observed several Martins' nests in a blind window on Islington green. And, Sept. 20, of the same year, I saw from the window of my present residence, in *Dalby Terrace, City Road,* many similar birds actively on the wing.

The *Redbreast* has been, I am told, occasionally seen in the neighbourhood of *Fleet-market* and *Ludgate-hill.* I saw it myself before the window of my present residence, Dalby Terrace, in November, 1825; and in November, 1826, the *Wren,* (*Sylvia Troglodytes,*) was seen on the shrubs in the garden before the house at Dalby Terrace; it was very lively and active, and uttered its peculiar *chit, chit.*

The *Starling* builds on the tower at *Canonbury*, in *Islington;* see the note on this bird in Part I; and the *Baltimore Oride* is, according to WILSON, found very often on the trees in some of the American cities; but the *Mocking-bird*, that used to be very common in the American suburban regions, is, it is said, now becoming more rare, particularly in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia.

The *Thrush*, (*Turdus Musicus,*) was also often heard in the gardens behind York Place, during the spring of 1826. I heard it myself in delightful song early in March, 1826, among the trees near the canal, on the north side of the Regent's Park.

Some of the *Migratory birds* approach much nearer to London than is, I believe, generally imagined. The *Cuckoo* and *Wood-pigeon* are heard occasionally in *Kensington Gardens.* The *Nightingale* approaches also much nearer to London than has been commonly supposed. I heard it in melodious song at seven o'clock in the morning, in the *wood* near *Hornsey-wood House*, May 10, 1826, which is, I believe, the nearest approach to *St. Paul's* it has been for some time known to make. It is also often heard at *Hackney* and *Mile-end.* I have also heard it regularly for some years past in a garden near the turnpike gate on the road leading from London to Greenwich, a short distance from the third mile stone from London-bridge. This charming bird may be also heard, during the season, in *Greenwich Park*, particularly in the gardens adjoining Montagu-house; but never, I believe, on its lofty trees. The Nightingale prefers copses and bushes to trees; the *Cuckoo*, on the contrary, prefers trees, and of these the elm, from which it most probably obtains its food. The *Nightingale* is also common at *Lee* and *Lewisham*, *Forest-hill*, *Sydenham*, and *Penge-wood;* in all these places, except *Hackney* and *Mile-*

end, I have myself often heard it, and in the day-time. Those who are partial to the singing of birds generally, will find the morning, from four to nine o'clock, the most favourable time for hearing them.

Although it is, perhaps, true, that the birds of warm climates do not equal those of the temperate ones in the sweetness and richness of their notes, yet it is a mistake to suppose that there are not many birds of exquisite song abounding in the *torrid* zone. The *Mocking-bird* is one of these, and perhaps one of the greatest wonders amongst the birds of the western world: but more of this charming bird hereafter.

From the abundance of many of the *picæ* tribe, such as *Parrots*, and some others of harsh note, it is probable that their sounds in the tropical woods often overpower and confound the more soft and sweet modulations of the warbler tribes; and hence the opinion has obtained credit that the tropical regions are deficient in birds of song.

The *Plumage* of the birds of the torrid zone is admitted by every one to be much more splendid than that of the birds of *temperate* latitudes; and, it also appears that, as we proceed to still colder regions, the colours of birds become less beautiful and striking, white being there one of the most predominant characteristics.

Of the Nidification of Birds, little more needs to be said; (see the *Poetical* portion of this Introduction;) it is, notwithstanding, worthy of remark, that scarcely two birds, even of the same genus, if of a different species, build their nests alike, nor in exactly similar situations; they all seem to have their peculiar predilections in the choice of a site for the important process of incubation. Some prefer lofty trees, and those too, of particular kinds; some hedges; some shrubs; some dry brakes; some on the water, and in reeds; some on the roofs, others under the eaves of houses; some lofty turrets or rocks; some banks; some holes in the earth, in trees, or in walls; and some, as the Swallow, the inside of the tops of chimneys. The Rook most decidedly in this country prefers the *elm;* yet it occasionally builds on the pine and the chesnut. The Goldfinch is partial to a young elm, not a lofty tree; *box* is a favourite site, when to be obtained, for the Hedge-sparrow; this choice arises most probably from the nest being, in *box*, most effectually concealed: this bird laying early in the spring, before the hedges are clothed with leaves. Afterwards, as its name imports, hedges are its usual place of domicile, and particularly those of the white-thorn; it also prefers dry and closely matted brakes in the early spring, for the same reason no doubt that it prefers the box. The House-sparrow in and near London occasionally chooses the Lombardy poplar; but in no other part of this country, that I am aware of. I am disposed to believe that this is a recently adopted habit of this bird, from this poplar being now very plentiful in the suburbs of London.

Many birds of warm climates build *pendulous* nests, which are attached to the extreme branches of trees, and where only they are secure from their enemies, the snakes and monkeys. Seeing that the eggs of many birds are often sought after and destroyed by vermin in this country, snakes, most probably, and the weasel tribe, it is rather remarkable that *pendulous* nests are not common here. Those who are conversant with the subject, know that a bird's nest with nothing but broken egg-shells in it will be very often found.

The Penduline Titmouse, *Parus pendulinus*, has a pendulous nest, as its name imports, and it is, besides, an

European bird, but its nest has never been, I believe, seen in this country.

The structure of the nests of birds must ever be a subject of interest and admiration; the skill displayed in many of them is truly wonderful, and indicates a considerable degree of foresight and intelligence.

Waterton, in his *Wanderings*, mentions the nest of some large *Humming bird,* similar in texture to tanned leather, with a *rim* in the inside of it, designed evidently to prevent the eggs, two in number, from rolling out, which they assuredly would do but for such precaution; the nest being attached to the slender branch of a tree, and moving about with every motion of the wind.

Our favourite, Thomson, supplies us with many interesting traits on this subject:

> "Some to the holly-hedge
> Nestling repair, and to the thicket some;
> Some to the rude protection of the thorn
> Commit their feeble offspring: the cleft tree
> Offers its kind concealment to a few,
> Their food its insects, and their moss their nests.
> Others apart far in the grassy dale,
> Or roughening waste, their humble texture weave.
> But most in woodland solitudes delight,
> In unfrequented glooms, or shaggy banks,
> Steep and divided by a babbling brook,
> Whose murmurs soothe them all the live long day,
> When by kind duty fix'd. Among the roots
> Of hazel pendent o'er the plaintive stream,
> They frame the first foundation of their domes:
> Dry sprigs of trees in artful fabric laid,
> And bound with clay together.
> The Swallow sweeps
> The slimy pool to build his hanging house,

> Intent; and often, from the careless back
> Of herds and flocks a thousand tugging bills
> Pluck hair and wool."
>
> *Spring.*

The MIGRATION OF BIRDS is also a subject of considerable interest in their natural history.

> "The birds of air
> Now pleas'd return; they perch on every spray,
> And swell their little throats, and warble wild
> Their vernal minstrelsy."
>
> MASON'S *English Garden*, Book iv.

It was formerly supposed that many birds, which, it is now known, unquestionably migrate, retired to some secure retreat, and remained dormant during the winter; so certain was this supposed to be, that, in some districts of the kingdom, *seven* of the migratory birds obtained the name of the SEVEN SLEEPERS. I am not exactly aware of all the names of these *sleeping birds*, but I remember very well that the *Cuckoo* was called in *Somersetshire*, when I was a boy, and I dare say is so still by the uninformed peasantry there, *one of the seven sleepers.* However, more accurate observation has, in great measure, dispelled these fancies: for they appear to be no more than fancies. There is, notwithstanding, a disposition in some persons still to credit the opinion that *swallows*, or at least some of them, do actually remain dormant during the winter in this country. As I am not aware that any well attested facts of a late date have been observed and made public concerning this very doubtful subject, and, as almost every thing which we know concerning this bird tends to the contrary opinion, namely, that it invariably migrates, or, if it remain here, it most probably dies, I am not disposed to countenance an opinion so contrary to other numerous and well-attested facts, and many of which are indeed open to the verification of almost all who take an active interest in the subject.

A very little reflection will serve to show us the real reasons for the *migration of birds,* which is not confined to this country, but appears to pervade, more or less, every region of the globe in which birds can exist. But it may be observed, that birds which are stationary in one country, are often migratory in another; or at least that a portion of the tribe migrates. It may be observed, too, that some birds are now migratory in this country that were formerly not so; a proof that they do not find it so agreeable to them as heretofore it used to be.

The *causes,* then, for the *migration of birds* may be, and most probably are, the following: namely, *defect of food at certain seasons of the year; the want of a secure asylum during incubation and nutrition; or the cold of winter being either destructive or unpleasant to the bird.* We can also conceive it possible that *excessive* heat might occasionally induce birds to migrate, although it is probable that this cause is much less operative than excessive cold.

The *Swallow* leaves this country about Michaelmas, most probably for two of the above reasons: the climate becomes too cold for it; and flies, its only food, are not found in sufficient abundance for its support.

> Away! away! thou summer bird!
> For autumn's moaning voice is heard,
> In cadence wild, and deepening swell,
> Of winter's stern approach to tell.
>
> *Lit. Gazette.*

Many other birds leave also this country about the same period. While, on the contrary, many birds from the *north,*—from Scotland, Sweden, Norway, and Lapland, now pour down upon the *south* of England; as the climate in the north becomes not only too cold for them, but it does not, most probably, supply them with a sufficient quantity of food. Hence the very common, and generally true observation, that the early arrival of wild geese, wild ducks, and other migratory birds, from the north, in the winter, portends that a severe season is approaching; the *early* appearance of these birds being, most likely, caused by severe frost having already set in at their usual summer residence.

The chief *migratory summer birds* found in England, and which, most probably, come from the warmer regions of Europe or Asia, or the yet more warm ones of Africa, are, the *Cuckoo*, the *Nightingale*, *all* the *Swallow* tribe, the *Wry-neck*, the *Wheatear*, the *Black-cap*, the *Fly-catcher*, the *Willow-wren*, the *White-throat*, the *Goat-sucker*, and the *Land-rail*. The *Auk*, the *Guillemot*, and *Puffin*, also visit the maritime cliffs of Great Britain in the summer.

The chief *migratory birds* which visit England during the *winter*, and which come most probably from the north of Scotland, or from the still colder regions of Lapland, Norway, and other parts of Northern Europe, are, the the *Hooded* or *Royston Crow*, the *Woodcock*, (believed also to come sometimes from North America, but this is questionable,) the *Fieldfare*, the *Ring-ouzel*, the *Redwing*, the *Snipe*, the *Jack Snipe*, the *Curlew*, the *Plover*, *Sandpiper*, &c. Of the *Duck* tribe, such as *Wild Ducks*, *Wild Geese*, *Widgeon*, *Teal*, *Swans*, &c.; some occasionally breed in England, the *Tadorna* or *Sheldrake* very commonly, but by far the greater part retire to remote places and inaccessible rocks, to Scotland or to some still more distant region, to perform the important functions of incubation and rearing their young, in retirement and security. Some of these abound in the fenny and marshy districts of the kingdom during the winter months, where food suitable to them may be commonly and readily obtained. Of the Duck tribe, too, many are *migratory* almost daily during the winter season: that is, they remain in the marshes for some hours, and then proceed to the sea shore, where food is in abundance. Some of these migrations are determined by the periods of the *tides.*

Besides the preceding regularly migrating birds, there are many others that occasionally appear in this country, or which change their residence from one part of the country to another. The *Golden Oriole* is sometimes seen here as a summer visitant; rarely, if ever, found here in the winter. The *Grosbeak*, *Crossbill*, and *Waxen Chatterer*, appear at uncertain intervals. Some of our *Wild Pigeons* either migrate or change their residence; so do *Quails*; *Starlings* most probably migrate in part, although not all.

Another peculiarity of many of the bird tribe is that of assembling in large numbers in the winter, and as regularly separating again at the approach of summer. Among our birds of song, the *Goldfinch, fringilla carduelis;* and *Lark, alauda arvensis*, may be mentioned as belonging to this class, they being found together, the Larks particularly, in large numbers in the *winter* season; but in the *summer* these birds are only associated in pairs. The same may be said of the *Pur, Tringa cinclus*, a well-known sea-bird, seen hovering at the mouths of salt water rivers in immense flocks in the winter and spring. The *House Sparrow* is not one of the least interesting of birds, notwithstanding its occasional destructiveness in cornfields. It is almost always more or less gregarious, but it is found associated in larger numbers in winter than in summer. In favourable situation, and in mild weather, this bird breeds occasionally even in the winter season; at least such is my experience of this bird in Somersetshire. The *Fieldfare* being a migratory bird, is rarely seen solitary in this country,—usually in flocks.

Few birds are gregarious at all seasons of the year. The Rook is, however, peculiarly so; and, what is very remarkable, this bird only roosts at the rookery for a few months during the time of building its nest, incubation, and rearing its young: in the winter season the whole community retire sometimes ten, or even more, miles from their nests, to roost on the trees in some sequestered spot or wood. They, nevertheless, occasionally visit the rookery throughout the winter, although not, I believe, diurnally.

Notwithstanding many birds are gregarious only during the winter season, some, as we have seen, (the ***Rook*** and ***House Sparrow,***) are gregarious also during incubation. Others are gregarious, chiefly, if not only, at this period. The ***Heron, ardea major,*** is one of those; and the ***Oriole, oriolus persicus,*** is peculiarly gregarious during the time of nidification and rearing its young.

The gregariousness of the Duck tribe does not seem to extend, under ordinary circumstances, to more than one brood,—most commonly from ten to fifteen; at least, this appears to be the fact during their ***flight.*** They are doubtless found together in greater numbers on our decoy pools and other lakes. The gregariousness of the ***Partridge*** extends, I believe, rarely beyond a brood; ***Quails,*** on the contrary, assemble together in large numbers in the winter.

It is a curious fact in the migration of birds, that some migrate in quest of a particular crop. Thus, in Cuba, the ***Rice-bird, Emberiza Oryzivora,*** is found in great numbers during the season of that crop; but no sooner is the rice gathered than it removes to Carolina, and meets the same harvest in that country, where it remains till the rice season is past. It has also been observed of this, and several other species of birds, that the male and female separate during the time of migration. Of the Rice-bird it is said that it is only the female which emigrates to Carolina. In Sweden a species of Duck, it is said, is found, the males of which constantly leave the country at the time of incubation, and do not return till the pairing season.

Attempts have been made to ascertain the exact time of the appearance and retreat of the various migratory birds; but, from a variety of circumstances, this will be found difficult, if not impossible: some birds appearing in certain places much sooner than in others; and some never appearing in many places, in certain seasons, at all. Thus it is said that the *Nightingale* is not to be found in England, farther from Dover, in any direction, than the distance of 150 miles. Perhaps, however, 200 miles might be nearer the truth. *Huntspill,* in Somersetshire, is considerably more than 150 miles from Dover; it is often heard there; I have also heard it on the banks of the Wye, between Chepstow and Monmouth. Notwithstanding the Nightingale is by no means an uncommon bird in *Somersetshire,* I remember very well that some years ago, while I resided at *Huntspill,* one or two summers passed without my hearing it at all; hence, I conclude it was not in the neighbourhood in those years.

Our *migratory summer birds,* such as the *Cuckoo, Nightingale, Swallow,* &c. do, however, generally make their appearance some time in *April,* according to the season, but usually towards the latter end of the month. The *winter birds* are more irregular still in their appearance. *October* and *November* are the usual months in which they arrive; the *Ring-ouzel,* it is said, soon after Michaelmas; the *Royston,* or *Hooded Crow,* in October; *Snipes,* in November, &c. &c. By a table in the *first* part of the xvth volume of the *Transactions of the Linnean Society*, prepared by Messrs. SHEPPARD and WHITEAR, exhibiting the *Times of Migration of Summer Birds of Passage, at Harleston, Norfolk, Offton in Suffolk, and Wrabness in Essex*; the *Swift* is rarely seen till May; the *Turtle Dove* not before the 12th of the same month: the *Black-cap* as early as the first of April, sometimes as late as the 22d of the same month; the *Swallow* on the 7th or 8th of April, sometimes as late as the 30th of the same month; the *Yellow-wren* sometimes as early as the 27th of March; the *Nightingale* the 14th of April, more commonly after the 20th of the same month; the *Cuckoo* on the 10th of April, more commonly after the 20th of the same month.

There is room for believing that some *migratory birds* return, again and again, to the same spot which they have visited in former years; of the Swallow, indeed, this occurrence is said to have been particularly observed.

The *Natural History of Birds* is extremely interesting; it is impossible in this short introduction to do it justice. If I shall by this work, altogether, excite a more general attention towards this department of nature's works, I shall be amply gratified for the labour and assiduity which I have bestowed upon it.

Nor is the study of the history of DOMESTICATED BIRDS to be neglected; it being, when unaccompanied with cruelty, a source of much gratification. *Mason* thus elegantly describes several of the tribe which minister to our pleasures or our wants:

"The feather'd fleet
Led by two mantling Swans, at every creek
Now touch'd, and now unmoor'd: now on full sail
With pennons spread and oary feet they plied

> Their vagrant voyage; and now as if becalm'd
> 'Tween shore and shore at anchor seem'd to sleep.
> Around those shores the fowl that fear the stream
> At random rove: hither hot Guinea sends
> Her gadding troop; here, 'midst his speckled dames,
> The pigmy chanticleer of Bantam winds
> His clarion; while supreme in glittering state
> The Peacock spreads his rainbow train with eyes
> Of sapphire bright, irradiate each with gold;
> Meantime from every spray the Ring-doves coo,
> The Linnets warble, captive none, but lur'd
> By food to haunt the umbrage: all the glade
> Is life, is music, liberty, and love."
>
> *English Garden*, Book iv.

In consulting the NOTES it is necessary the reader should know that, in order to avoid repetition and to save room, in describing the *species* of each genus, the *specific* name only is given. Thus, under FALCO, the *Eagle, Hawk*, &c. instead of *Falco Chrysaëtos*, will be found, The *Chrysaëtos*, instead of *Falco Ossifragus*, The *Ossifragus*, and so on; so that the student will only have to add the generic term FALCO to the specific one *Chrysaëtos*, and thus of every other genus respectively, to obtain the scientific names of every species throughout the work. As far also as they can be ascertained, the various *provincial names* of the different species of birds, are added; of the first utility in the study of ornithology. For the supply of this desideratum, besides his own resources, the author is greatly indebted to the *Ornithological Dictionary* of COLONEL MONTAGU,* a work which, for its accuracy, will be ever held in deserved estimation. A few names are also added from WILSON's *American Ornithology*, a work of singular merit, to which he owes the tribute of his thanks. To Dr. LATHAM's work he is also, on this account, under some obligation.

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* Those who desire to obtain *Biographical Particulars* of this distinguished naturalist, who was a native of Wiltshire, but died at Knowles, near Kingsbridge, in Devonshire, in 1815, will find

Of ANDREW WILSON, as he has long since paid the debt of nature, and who has been little heard of in this country, the following particulars may be here acceptable. He was born of poor parents, at Paisley, in Scotland, in 1766; his education was, of course, scanty, but considerably better than falls to the lot of persons of his condition in England. He was apprenticed to a weaver, his brother-in-law, the pursuit of whose trade he followed for many years; he subsequently shouldered his pack and became an itinerant pedlar. Becoming disgusted with trade, he wrote some papers for the *Bee*, a periodical work edited by Dr. ANDERSON; he wrote also a *libel*, for which he was prosecuted, and, for a short time, imprisoned, and sentenced besides to burn, with his own hands, the obnoxious work at the public high-cross at Paisley!

In 1792, he published, anonymously, a characteristic Poem, entitled "*Watty and Meg*," which was attributed to BURNS. Disliking Scotland, in 1794, he went to America; there, encountering various fate, he became a teacher in a school; and, subsequently, formed an acquaintance with the venerable naturalist, WILLIAM BARTRAM, by whom he was excited to devote his attention to the

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them in the *third* volume of BRITTON's BEAUTIES OF WILTSHIRE, lately published; a volume replete with antiquarian and biographical information; not the least interesting portion of which consists of an auto-biographical memoir of Mr. BRITTON himself, one of the most industrious of our literary bees.

Natural History of Birds, the *drawing* of which he also assiduously cultivated. Before he left Scotland, he had published a volume of poems, of, it is said, indifferent merit; a poem called the "*Foresters*," he published in America. Besides the art of *drawing*, he acquired also that of *etching*. He became afterwards, at a liberal salary, assistant *editor* of an American edition of Rees's Cyclopædia, the articles of which, on Natural History, it is presumed, were improved under his superintendance.

His work on Birds, the title of which is, *American Ornithology, or Natural History of the Birds of the United States, illustrated with plates, engraved and coloured from original drawings taken from nature, by* ALEXANDER WILSON, *in nine volumes, folio*, was published at Philadelphia by *subscription*. It was several years completing; the last volume appeared soon after his death, in 1814. A *supplementary* volume, containing some further observations on birds, and biographical particulars of the author, has been since published by Mr. GEO. ORD. This work has obtained for WILSON an imperishable name; it is little known in this country, but every lover of Natural History ought to be acquainted with it. WILSON's whole study appears to have been nature; he derived little knowledge from books; but he traversed the United States in various directions for information concerning his favourite pursuit.

He died at Philadelphia, in 1813, aged 47, and left his ornithological work as a monument of his industry, his talent, and research. His descriptions of birds, although extremely accurate, are, nevertheless, highly poetical and picturesque; and the amiable spirit of humanity towards the objects of his attention, which breathes throughout his work, will never fail to excite for him a feeling of respect and esteem.

Besides furnishing the whole of the *letter-press* for his work, and the *drawings* for the plates, the plates themselves were almost wholly coloured by him, or under his immediate superintendance. A work of more accuracy in Natural History does not, perhaps, exist. America has reason to be proud of having been the foster-mother to ALEXANDER WILSON. The number of birds described by him is 278.

He was scrupulously just, social, affectionate, benevolent, and temperate; but of the *genus irritabile,* extremely pertinacious of his own opinion, and did not like to be told of his mistakes,—a weakness, for weakness it most certainly was, greatly to be deplored. His death deprived the world, most probably, of another work which he contemplated, namely, one on *American Quadrupeds*. He had a poetical mind, as the extracts from his work in the subsequent notes will shew,—but he wanted *taste,* to give that polish to his lines which most who read them will perceive they occasionally require. His description of the BALD EAGLE in Note 1, Part I. is, however, a masterpiece; it may be pronounced nearly a faultless picture.

It is said that upon some occasion the late President of the *United States,* JEFFERSON, treated WILSON with contempt. This it is extremely painful to hear; but it too often unfortunately happens that the worth of the *living* is unknown; we stand in need of death to set the seal to our pretensions and our merit. Surely JEFFERSON could never neglect the truly meritorious and worthy, if he believed him to be so!

In concluding this notice of ANDREW WILSON, and his *American Ornithology*, it would be unpardonable here to omit the notice of a work, in some respects similar, on our BRITISH BIRDS, now in course of publication by Mr. SELBY; a work, the plates of which are on elephant folio, and coloured correctly after nature, by or under the direction of the author himself. As far as I have had an opportunity of examining the engravings, they appear far superior to any thing that has yet been published in this country concerning *British Birds.* It bids fair not only to equal, if not to exceed, in many particulars, ANDREW WILSON'S work, but also to supply a desideratum in our ornithological history, which every lover of birds must of necessity highly esteem.

My *poetical* division of the birds, although not scientific, will not be, I flatter myself, without its uses. From the great loco-motive powers of many birds, they belong to almost all regions of the earth; yet, in a general view, the EAGLE may be said to be the king of the birds of the *temperate,* as the VULTURE, *Condur,* is of the *torrid* zones. The CONDUR prefers putrid to fresh meat; hence the use of such birds in warm climates. As the organ of smell is, in the *Vulturid* race of birds, strongly developed, Mr. VIGORS thinks that this tribe bears, among birds of prey, the same analogical relation to the *canine* race among the mammalia, as the *Falconids* exhibit to the *Feline* tribes.* PLINY has concisely stated the difference in this respect between these two genera of birds. AQUILÆ *clarius cernunt*; VULTURES *sagacius ordorantur.* The disposition of the VULTURE tribe for dead animals was well known to the ancients:

> Exanima obscœnus consumit corpora vultur.
>
> SILIUS ITALICUS.

Although I have *poetically* TWO divisions of birds, from a desire to maintain, as much as was consistent with the nature of my work, a *scientific* arrangement in the NOTES, I have to regret that the description of *every* bird could not, without great inconvenience, be confined to its peculiar region, notwithstanding, for the most part, it is so. When, therefore, the description of any bird cannot be readily found in the notes of one part, it should be sought for in the other. The INDEX will be, however, the most certain guide.

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* Zoological Journal, vol. 2, page 371.

In an EPITOME of ORNITHOLOGY, the mention of the very extensive and useful collection of preserved specimens of birds now open to the inspection of the public at the BRITISH MUSEUM ought not to be omitted. The lover of *Natural History* will find, in the well arranged cases of that *National Repository*, much to interest and engage his attention. There he may contemplate specimens of the more rare and curious of the feathered race. The *Flamingo*, the *Bird of Paradise*, the *Toucan*, innumerable *Eagles*, the *Columba Coronota*, the *Bustard*, and a numerous *et cætera*, either new or rare in this department of science. There may he pass days in the contemplation of BIRDS alone, which will afford him no ordinary gratification.

The *Ornithological Museum* of the LINNEAN SOCIETY ought also to be mentioned; the extensive collection of the BIRDS of NEW HOLLAND, in particular, is more especially deserving notice. This museum is not, of course, open to the public; but, by a suitable introduction, it may be readily inspected.

Nor ought the museum of the *East India Company*, in Leadenhall Street, to be forgotten. Here will be found many of the birds of the east, and, particularly, a curious collection made by Dr. HORSFIELD, of the *Birds* of *Java*: access to this can only be had through the medium of a DIRECTOR, or by an introduction to the Librarian, Dr. WILKINS.

Nor must the growing collection of the ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY in these notices be passed over; a society which, under the auspices of many of the nobility and gentry, is already, although of very recent formation, in vigorous activity, and to which the learned SECRETARY, Mr. VIGORS, is lending his powerful assistance; and the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, as PRESIDENT, his countenance and support.

Nor, lastly, should the collection of LIVING BIRDS at EXETER CHANGE be omitted. Among which is a large female AFRICAN OSTRICH; various VULTURES; the DEMOISELLE HERON; PELICANS; several EMEUS, which were bred in his Majesty's establishment in Windsor Park; and other living ornithological curiosities.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that the Latin word, *Genera*, is used throughout this work for the plural of *genus*, the same as it is in that language. Notwithstanding my endeavours to the contrary, some terms have almost imperceptibly glided into the work which may require explanation to the uninitiated reader; I have therefore added a *Glossary* of such words, and have also given the meaning of the *terms* adopted by Mr. VIGORS, and mentioned above in explanation of the *Quinary* arrangement.

In studying scientific works on ornithology, it will be useful to know the terms which are applied to the different parts of the bodies of birds; they are as follow:

The HEAD, *Caput*, consists of the Bill, *Rostrum;* the ostrils, *Nares;* the Cere or Wax, *Cera;* the Tongue, *Lingua;* the Face, *Capistrum;* the Forehead, *Frons;* the Crown, *Vertex;* the Hindhead, *Occiput;* the Crest, *Crista;* the Eyes, *Oculi;* the Eyebrows, *Supercilia;* the Caruncules, *Carunculæ;* the Lore, *Lorum;* the Orbits, *Orbitæ;* the Cheeks, *Genæ;* the Temples, *tempora;* the Ears, *Aures;* the Beard, *Barba.*

Of the NECK, *Collum;* the Nape, *Nucha;* the hind part of the Neck, *Occiput;* Chin, *Gula;* Throat, *Jugulum.*

Of the BODY, *Corpus;* Back, *Dorsum;* Rump, *Uropugium;* Interscapular, *Interscapulium;* Shoulders, *Humeri;* Breast, *Pectus;* Axilliaries, *Axilla;* Hypochondres, *Hypochondriæ;* Belly, *Abdomen;* Vent, *Crissum.*

Of the WINGS, *Alæ;* Wing-coverts, *Tectrices;* Bastard-wing, *Alula spuria;* Scapulars, *Scapulares;* Wing-spot, *Speculum.*

Of the TAIL, *Cauda;* Tail Feathers, *Rectrices;* Tail-coverts, *Tectrices Caudæ.*

Of the LEGS, *Crura;* Thighs, *Femora;* Bracelets, *Armillæ;* Shins, *Crura;* Toes, *Digiti;*—1, for walking, *Ambulatorii;* 2, Salient or leaping, *Gressorii;* 3, Climbing, *Scansorii;* 4, Prehensile, *Prehensilis;* Tridactyle, *Tridactyli,* having three toes, cursory; Didactyle, *Didactyli,* having two toes, the Ostrich only.

Of the FOOT, *Pes;* Palmated, *Natatorius;* Semipalmated, *Semipalmatus;* Lobated, *Lobatus;* Pinnated, *Pinnatus;* Claws, *Ungues;* Spines or Spurs, *Calcaria.*

Horns, *Cornua;* Wattles, *Carunculæ;* Pouch, *Saccus Jugularis;* Crop, *Ingluvies.*

I take leave of the *Introductory* portion of my work in the following words of DRUMMOND:

> "SWEET BIRDS! that sing away the early hours,
> Of winters past, or coming void of care,
> Well pleased with delights which present are,
> Fair seasons, budding sprays, sweet smelling flowers;
> To rocks, to springs, to rills, from leavy bowers,
> Ye your Creator's goodness do declare."

ORNITHOLOGIA.

PART THE FIRST.

BRITISH AND EUROPEAN BIRDS.

"The spring
Is the earth enamelling,
And the BIRDS, on every tree,
Greet this morn with melody."

BROWNE'S *Shepherd's Pipe.*

ORNITHOLOGIA.

PART THE FIRST.

BRITISH AND EUROPEAN BIRDS.

My Theme is of Birds—of those Princes of Air,
Who oft warble for man, and oft lighten his care:—
Of those who *rapaciously* pounce on their prey—
The Raptors, who wing, too, with swiftness their way;—
Of Insessors, 'mongst whom dwell the Children of Song—
The tribe to whom *perching* will ever belong;—
Of the Rasors distinguish'd by *scratching* the ground,
And nigh to the dwellings of man much abound;—
Of Grallators who *wade* in pursuit of their food,
On the shores of the sea, or in rills of the wood;—
Of Natators who *swim*,—near the waters reside;—
Whom to meet chose the Eagle, in fulness of pride:—
All, to pleasure obedient, bade care haste away,
And, 'midst Melody's Sons, pass'd a rapturous day.

Resolved that amusement was good for the state,
The AQUILINE MONARCH,(1) in council sedate,

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(1) ORDER, ACCIPITRES, (*Linn.*) EAGLE, HAWK, KITE, BUZZARD, FALCON, &c.

The term EAGLE is applied to various birds which are arranged by LINNÆUS under the genus denominated by him FALCO, of which he described only thirty-two species; such, however, has been the assiduity of subsequent research, that above two hundred and thirty species are described in Dr. LATHAM's last work.

The following may be considered as the chief of this rapacious tribe, the distinguishing characteristics of which are, a hooked bill, the base covered with a cere, the head covered with close set feathers, the tongue bifid. They are bold, and fly with great speed when high in the air, but slowly in the lower regions; their sense of sight is exquisite; their legs and feet are scaly; the middle and outer toes connected; they are not gregarious. They feed sometimes on putrid carcasses, but, more commonly, attacking living animals, destroy and devour them. They build their nests, (those of the Eagles, and some others of the tribe, are called *eyries*,) for the most part, in the clefts of impending rocks; some of the Hawks on trees. They are scattered over the various parts of the globe: upwards of twenty species are found in the interior or on the coasts of this country. In many of the tribe the female is larger than the male. Several of the genus are migratory. Indeed, from their power and rapidity of flight, they are enabled to visit most of the regions of the globe. From the great changes in the colour of the feathers of several of the genus during their progress to maturity, considerable confusion exists among ornithologists in the names of several of the species; nor am I able to rectify the numerous discordances which have thence arisen.

Proclamation sent forth over hill, over dale,
Over land, over sea, over mountain and vale:—

The *Chrysaëtos*,* or **GOLDEN EAGLE**, has the cere yellow; body variegated with brown and rusty; tail black, waved at the base with cinereous, and beneath white; legs yellowish rusty, feathered down to the toes. It is generally about three feet long, and weighs about twelve pounds; a female was once found which measured in length three feet and a half, and eight feet across with the wings extended. It lives very long, occasionally, it is said, more than a century; endures great abstinence, sometimes for more than twenty days. Breeds in Scotland, Ireland, and sometimes on Snowdon hills in Wales; scarce in England; found also in the Alps, Germany, Russia, India, and North America. Feeds on sheep, and also on geese and other poultry. Eggs three or four, greyish white; but it rarely hatches more than two.

This bird in its habits is said to be untameable, it not becoming fond even of those who feed it. It does not arrive at maturity till its fourth year; during the period of its growth it puts on various appearances; the *Fulvus*, see forward, is said by some authors to be the young of this species; yet this admits of considerable question.

Two instances have occurred in Scotland of its having flown away with infants to its nest; in both cases the theft was discovered, so that the children were not materially injured. A finely wrought up story on the Eagle's taking away "*Hannah*

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* It has already been mentioned in the INTRODUCTION that, in order to avoid repetition, and to save room, in describing the *species* under each *genus*, the *generic* term is uniformly omitted. Thus, the *Chrysaëtos* is to be understood as *Falco Chrysaëtos*; the *Ossifragus* as *Falco Ossifragus*, and so of the other genera. It may be useful to mention this again here, in order to obviate the possibility of mistake.

That his people, the Birds, on a day named should
meet,
And that He would himself there be proud them to
greet.

Lamond's Bairn," is related in *Blackwood's Magazine*, for October, 1826, in a Review of Selby's *ornithology*.

The following lines, the production of Percival, an American poet, are the commencement of an Address to the Eagle, which appears in the *American Souvenir*, a *Christmas Present*, or *New Year's Offering*, for 1827, published at New York. This poem is one of those racy originals which at once delight and surprise us: it is a fine specimen of the talent and genius of our kindred of the west:

" Bird of the broad and sweeping wing,
Thy home is high in heaven,
Where wide the storms their banners fling,
And the tempests clouds are driven.
Thy throne is on the mountain top,
Thy fields the boundless air;
And hoary peaks that proudly prop
The skies, thy dwellings are."

The *Ossifragus*, Sea-Eagle or *Osprey*, inhabits Europe and North America; and is found occasionally in various parts of Great Britain and Ireland. It is as large as the Golden Eagle. The whole body is dark brown, intermixed with rust colour; cere and legs yellow; tail feathers white on the inner side. Builds in inaccessible rocks or on lofty trees. Its food principally fish; but it feeds also on other animals. Two Eagles of this species were taken from a nest in Ireland and kept together for more than two years; in the third year one of them killed the other and devoured it, most probably from not being supplied with sufficient food; for they lived together before in perfect harmony.—*Montagu*. Although this bird will

And lest that some Raptors, as KESTRIL or KITE—
All those with sharp claws and in death that delight,

attack the salmon, and even the seal, it is said that it cannot dive after it. PLINY thus describes the manner of this bird's taking its finny prey: "Superest Haliæëtos, clarissimâ oculorum acie, librans ex alto sese, visoque in mari pisce, præceps in eum ruens, et discussis pectore aquis rapiens." See Note 2, Part ii. for a poetical imitation of this description by Mr. GISBORNE; see also below, article *Haliæëtos.*

The *Leucocephalus,* or BALD EAGLE, has a brown body; head and tail white; cere and legs yellow; three feet three inches long; feeds on hogs, lambs, and fish; nest large, on trees; eggs two; inhabits the woods of Europe and America. WILSON thinks this the same as the *Ossifragus,* in a different stage of colour. The following picture from the masterly hand of that author will convey some idea of a habit of this bird:

> "High o'er the watery uproar silent seen
> Sailing sedate in majesty serene,
> Now 'midst the pillar'd spray sublimely lost,
> And now emerging, down the rapids toss'd,
> Glides the BALD EAGLE, gazing, calm and slow,
> O'er all the horrors of the scene below:
> Intent alone to sate himself with blood,
> From the torn victims of the raging flood."
>
> WILSON'S *American Ornithology.*

The *Fulvus,* RING-TAILED EAGLE, or *Black Eagle,* inhabits Great Britain, Europe, Asia, and America; length two feet and a half, Wilson says nearly three feet. This bird is trained by the Tartars to hunt hares, antelopes, and foxes. The tail has a white band, whence, of course, its name. The quill feathers are used to mount arrows. There is a variety with a white tail, the tip of which is brown.

It is a very destructive bird; rare in the south of this king-

Should come, by ferocity prompted alone,
It was, by an Edict imperial, made known,

dom, but has been met with in Derbyshire. One was shot at Warkworth, measuring in extent of wing eleven feet and a quarter, which is considerably more than that of the Golden Eagle; and hence it cannot be the young of that bird. See the first article.

The *Cyaneas*, or HEN-HARRIER, is, the *male* about seventeen inches long; plumage blue grey, beneath, white: the *female*, described by naturalists under the name of the *Pygargus*, or RING-TAIL, is twenty inches long; plumage above, dusky; beneath, palish. Found in this country, and other parts of Europe; also in Asia. WILSON describes a Ring-tail nearly three feet long, which is found in the northern parts of America.

The *Serpentarius*, SERPENT VULTURE, *Secretary Vulture*, *Secretary*, or *Snake Eater*, has a black body, the hind head crested, tail feathers white at the tips, the legs *very long*; three feet high; feeds on small animals. Inhabits the interior of Africa and the Philippine Islands.

This is arranged as a distinct genus by Dr. LATHAM, and by him called SECRETARY. Mr. VIGORS seems to consider it as the *first* of his families of *Raptores*, under the term *Gypogeranus*, one being still wanting.

The *Harpyia*, CRESTED EAGLE, *Crowned Vulture*, or *Oronookoo Eagle*, is rather larger than a turkey; bill black; the head crested, with long feathers, which it erects in the shape of a coronet; upper parts of the body mostly black, beneath white; hind part of the neck fulvous. Inhabits Mexico, Brazil, and other parts of South America: it is said that it can cleave a man's skull at one stroke!

The *Gallicus*, or FRENCH EAGLE, inhabits France, is two feet long, has the body grey brown; builds on the ground, and lays three grey eggs.

The *Barbatus*, or BEARDED EAGLE, consists of three varieties;

That all must appear without malice prepense:
Who offended in this would the monarch incense;

one of which inhabits the Alps, the other two, Persia. It has a brown back, and a black stripe above and beneath the eyes: tufts of black hair cover the nostrils, others are on the lower mandible; and similar hairs form a beard. The whole of the body covered with yellow down. Four feet long; builds in rocks, and preys on quadrupeds; will attack men when asleep; flies in flocks.

According to this account, the Bearded Eagle must be one of the largest of the tribe.

The *Milvus*, KITE, *Glead*, or *Puttock*, inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa, and is well known in various parts of Great Britain; about two feet long; the cere is yellow; the body is ferruginous; head whitish; tail forked. Four varieties. Feeds on offal and poultry; fortels storms by its clamour; flies placidly. Eggs three, whitish with yellowish spots; migrates into Europe the beginning of April. Three other varieties.

The *Austriacus*, or AUSTRIAN KITE, inhabits the woods of Austria; legs yellow; body above chesnut, beneath brick-dust colour, spotted with brown; tail forked. Size of the Kite; feeds on birds and bats.

The *Haliæëtos*, OSPREY, BALD BUZZARD, *Fishing Hawk*, *Fish Hawk*, or *Fishing Eagle*, inhabits the marshes of Europe, America, and Siberia, and builds among reeds, sometimes on ruins, sometimes on trees; nest large, often three or four feet in breadth, and from four to five feet high, composed externally of sticks; (this account of the nest is from WILSON.) It is about two feet long; feeds on fishes, which it catches by diving. Body brown above, white beneath; head white; cere and feet blue. Four varieties. The habits of this bird are, I presume, similar to the *Ossifragus* or SEA-EAGLE mentioned above, and PLINY's description of its taking its prey will, most probably, apply to both; but it is greatly to be lamented that so

Even Ravens, he said, must their croaking avoid;
Nor with screams of the Peacock would he be an-
noyed.

much confusion is found among naturalists in regard to names. I am sorry that it is not in my power to remove these discrepancies.

A remarkable trait, mentioned by Wilson, in the character of this bird deserves notice: the *Grakles*, or *Crow Blackbirds*, are permitted by the Fish-hawk to build their nests among the interstices of the sticks with which his own nest is constructed. Several pairs of Grakles taking up their abode there, like humble vassals around the castle of their chief; laying, hatching their young, and living together in mutual harmony. Wilson found four of such nest clustered around one nest of the Fishing Hawk.

"The sailing Osprey high is seen to soar,
With broad unmoving wing; and circling slow
Marks each loose straggler in the deep below;
Sweeps down like lightning! plunges with a roar!
And bears his struggling victim to the shore."
Wilson's Amer. Ornith.

The *Buteo*, Buzzard, or *Puttock*, inhabits Great Britain and Europe at large; body brown, belly pale with brown spots; legs yellow: it varies in its colours; length twenty inches; feeds on birds, insects, and small animals.

The *Æruginosus*, or Moor-Buzzard, inhabits England, and Europe generally; body grey; the crown, arm-pits, and legs, yellow; twenty-one inches long; builds in marshes; lives on fish, aquatic birds, rabbits, and mice; varies in colour.

My friend, the elegant and accomplished poet and scholar, the Rev. W. L. Bowles, vicar of Bremhill, Wilts, has a *Buzzard* demesticated so far that it rarely quits the neighbourhood of the house and gardens: it is, of course, occasionally fed; it has

Could I dare, INSPIRATION! to quaff from thy
spring,
Of the BIRDS and their SONGS I might worthily sing.

been known to swallow thirteen mice at one meal; some of the mice were, however, young ones; after which it became, for several days, extremely stupid and indisposed for motion.*

The *Antillarum*, or MANSFENNY, inhabits the West India islands; it is about eighteen inches long; body brown, belly white, the crown black; legs and claws large and strong.—The *Orientalis*, or ORIENTAL HAWK, inhabits Japan; the head and body above dusky brown, beneath rusty brown; tail spotted with white; seventeen inches long.

The *Tinnunculus*, HAWK, KESTRIL, *Kestril Falcon*, *Kastril*, *Castril*,† *Coystrel*, *Steingall*, *Stonegall*, *Stannel*, *Wind-hover*, or *Hover-Hawk*, the most commonly known in this country, of all the tribe of Hawks. The *male* is thirteen inches long, bill lead colour, cere yellow; irids dusky and large; the throat whitish; the back, scapulars, and wing coverts are a fine red brown,

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* The term HAWK is a very indefinite one; it has been occasionally applied to the *Buzzard;* thus DRYDEN sings:

"Some haggard *Hawk* who had her eyry nigh,
Well pounc'd to fasten, and well wing'd to fly:
One they might trust their common wrongs to wreak:
The *Musquet* and the *Coystrel* were too weak,
Too fierce the *Falcon;* but, above the rest,
The noble *Buzzard* ever pleas'd me best;
Of small renown 'tis true; for, not to lye,
We call him but a *Hawk* by courtesy."

Hind and Panther.

The *musquet*, or *musket*, here mentioned, is the male of the *Sparrow Hawk.*

† See DRAYTON'S *Owl*, DRYDEN'S *Hind and Panther*, Part III, and the preceding note.*

On thy *Presence*, bright ESSENCE! my hope will pre-
sume—
That thy smile of approval my song may illume;—

spotted and barred with black; beneath, light ferruginous, barred with black; tail cinereous grey, with a black bar near the end; legs yellow. The *female* is considerably larger than the male; the head and tail the same colour as the back, which is not so bright a red-brown as the male; beneath, lighter than the male, but the black spots not so distinct; eggs from four to six, not so large as a pigeon's; colour reddish brown, with dark blotches; nest on trees, and sometimes in a deserted magpie's or crow's nest. Inhabits England, Europe, and Siberia. Feeds principally on mice, sometimes on cockchafers, occasionally on birds; seen hovering in the air and quite stationary for some time, then pouncing suddenly down on its prey. This bird is a very useful one. In a paper read before the *Linnean Society* containing some valuable *observations on the Birds of Norfolk and Suffolk* by the Rev. R. SHEPPARD and the Rev. W. WHITEAR, May 3, 1825, it is stated, that a hawk of this kind was observed to dart upon a *weasel* and immediately to mount aloft with it in its talons; but had not proceeded far before both fell from a considerable height to the ground; the weasel ran off, but the Kestril, upon examination, was found to have been killed by a bite in its throat. This bird is said to migrate to the north early in the spring; there are several varieties; it was formerly trained to catch game.

The *Palumbarius*, or GOSHAWK, inhabits England, Europe, and North America. Legs yellow, body brown, tail feathers with pale bands; length twenty-two inches; devours poultry, and was formerly much used in falconry.—The *Nisus*, SPARROW-HAWK, or *Spar-Hawk*, inhabits England, Europe, Africa, and Madeira. The legs are yellow, body above yellowish brown, beneath, white waved with grey, tail with blackish bands. *Male* twelve inches, the *female* fifteen inches long.

That, to NATURE, to TRUTH, and to SCIENCE, devote,
My Harp may respond with a musical note;—

Two other varieties: one spotted with white, the other entirely white. It is very bold, and preys on poultry, pigeons, partridges, &c. Sometimes tamed and flies about gardens; it has been also taught to catch larks. The *male* of this species was formerly called a *musket*.

The *Gyrfalco*, or BROWN GYRFALCON, inhabits Europe, and preys on cranes and pigeons. The *Lannarius*, or LANNER, is the size of the Buzzard; three varieties. Inhabits England, Europe, and Tartary. Builds in low trees; migrates: much esteemed in falconry. The *Vespertinus*, or INGRIAN FALCON, inhabits Ingria, Russia, and Siberia; size of a pigeon; builds on trees, or takes possession of a magpie's nest; preys on quails; flies abroad chiefly in the evening or at night. The *Subbuteo* or HOBBY, inhabits England, Europe, and Siberia; back brown, belly palish, with oblong brown spots; twelve inches long; two varieties; preys on larks. The *Œsolon*, or MERLIN, inhabits Europe; body above bluish ash, with rusty spots and stripes; beneath, yellowish white with oblong spots; length twelve inches. Migrates southerly on the approach of winter; often seen in England. Three other varieties found in the West Indies, or New York. The *Pumilius*, or TINY FALCON, has the body brown-ash, beneath whitish, with blackish bars. Said to be the smallest of the genus, being hardly six inches long; inhabits Cayenne; but the *Cerulescens*, a native of Java, described by Dr. HORSFIELD, and a specimen of which is in the East India House Museum, is, I believe, still smaller.

The *Communis*, COMMON FALCON, *Yearly Falcon, Aged Falcon*, or *Falcon Gentle*, of which there are above ten varieties, inhabits Europe and North America, some of its varieties, China, Hudson's Bay, and India. The general colour of the plumage is brown, the feathers edged with rusty; body beneath white, irregularly marked with brown; the tail with darker transverse

That Science affianc'd with Nature, fair bride,
With Thee and with Truth o'er my Song may preside:

bands; bill bluish ash; legs green or yellow; length eighteen inches; feeds on various animals. The above is the usual colours of the bird at *three* years old; but it puts on different appearances from year to year till it arrives at that age. One variety is entirely white, with scarcely visible yellow spots; another brownish black; another spotted with black and red.

The *male* is considerably smaller than the *female*, and hence he has been called a *Tircelet*, *Tercell*, or *Tassel*; he is also said to be much less courageous than the female, and hence she was the bird usually employed in Hawking, a sport which was formerly so much in repute; but which has, deservedly, given way to other and more praiseworthy occupation, I trust never to be revived: we may hope too that the intelligence which is abroad will ultimately banish from among men the puerile pursuits of *hunting* and *shooting* animals for *sport*, than which what can be, to an intellectual being, more derogatory or degrading? *Hawking*, *hunting*, *shooting*, and *fishing* for *sport* are all the remains of the prejudices and customs of barbarous ages: it is time that a high and diffused intelligence should lift up its voice and discountenance so great a departure from the dignity of intellectual man.

Some of the *Falcon* tribe have been used in Asia for hunting *Hares*, *Deer*, *&c.* Mr. Southey alludes to this sport in *Thalaba*:

"The deer bounds over the plain:
The lagging dogs behind
Follow from afar!
But lo! the *Falcon* o'er head
Hovers with hostile wings
And buffets him with blinding strokes."

Thalaba, vol. ii. page 129.

The *Peregrinus*, Peregrine Falcon, or *Duck Hawk*, is found

But soft—some warbler's echoing lay
On Zephyr's waves seems borne away;—
And now, o'er woodland, grove, and dell,
Still louder the melodious swell!

on some of our rocky shores, and builds commonly in the most inaccessible cliffs; it was formerly much used in falconry, and, being a bold and powerful bird, was in great esteem; it was, however, chiefly used in the taking of Ducks, and other water-fowl,—whence one of its names.

In concluding this long note on an important genus of birds it may just be added, that by the 9th of Hen. VII, "taking the eggs of any Fawcons, Goshawks, Laners, or Swannes, out of the neste," rendered the offender liable "to be imprisoned for a year and a day, and a fine at the king's will:" and that the Duke of St. Alban's is still hereditary grand Falconer of England: but the office is not exercised. There are also several statutes relating to hawks and their eggs, which it may be sufficient merely to mention: they are, it is presumed, all become a dead letter.

It may also be observed that, in former times, and in many countries, the custom of carrying a falcon about was esteemed a mark of a man of rank: many persons of distinction were painted with a hawk on the hand. Aristotle, Pliny, and many other ancient writers, speak of the method of catching birds by means of hawks; but, it is said, that falconry was practised with far more spirit and universality among the ancient Britons than in any other nation; that it commenced as early as the fifth century, and was cultivated as late as the fifteenth, when the introduction of the use of gunpowder most probably superseded the use of birds, as means of obtaining game.

THE WOOD-LARK'S INVOCATION.

Alauda arborea. (LINN.)

GODDESS of the realm of SONG !
Round whose throne the WARBLERS throng,
From thy bright, cerulean sphere
Deign our humble notes to hear !

Love demands our earliest lay ;—
Love, the monarch of our MAY ;—
Io pæans let us sing
While we welcome laughing spring.

MAY, with feet bedropp'd with dew,
On yon hill-top is in view ;—
MAY, whose arch look, winning wiles,
Youth on tip-toe oft beguiles.

GODDESS of the soul of SONG !
Thou to whom delights belong,
Deign to prompt the WARBLERS' LAY ;
Deign to deck the coming day.(2)

---

(2) ORDER, PASSERES, *(Linn.)* LARK, the WOOD, the TIT, the ROCK, the MEADOW, &c.

The *Genus* ALAUDA, *(Linn.)* or LARK, comprehends more than fifty species distinguished by a sharp, pointed, slender, bill, nostrils covered partly with feathers and bristles : tongue cloven at the end : toes divided to their origin : claw of the back toe very long, a little crooked : their motion running not hopping. The following are the chief:

The *Arvensis*, or SKY-LARK, for an account of which see the SKY-LARK'S SONG.

Lo! the PLACE!—by a river whose stream runs
along
In a warble as soft as the Nightingale's song;
In whose deeps of clear crystal the maculate trout
Is seen swiftly darting or sporting about;—

The *Arborea*, or WOOD-LARK, is less than the sky-lark: the plumage is more pale and inclined to rufous, yet varied like that bird: the head is surrounded with a white ring or fillet; legs flesh colour. Found in this country, throughout Europe, and, it is said, in Siberia and Kamtschatka. Nest on the ground in tufts of grass, like the sky-lark: eggs four or five, dusky brown blotched with dusky, with smaller reddish spots. It sings as it flies: but it also perches on trees, when it likewise sings: its note has been compared to the blackbird's and the nightingale's: it is however a sweet and varied song. It sometimes soars to a great height in the air, flying in circles, and continues so to do for a long time. It is not gregarious like the *arvensis*, being rarely seen in greater number than six or seven together.

The *Pratensis*, or TIT-LARK, inhabits Europe in low grounds, and well known in this country: it is five and a half inches long: has a fine note, and sings sitting on trees or on the ground. The bill is black: body above dusky brown, beneath, white: breast ochre yellow with oblong black spots: legs yellowish: nest on the ground.

The *Magna*, MEADOW-LARK, or *Old Field-lark*, of WILSON, is ten inches and a half long, extent sixteen and a half: throat, belly, breast, a rich yellow; inside lining and edge of the wing the same colour; back beautifully variegated with black, bright bay, and pale ochre; legs and feet pale flesh-colour and very large. Nest, in or beneath a thick tuft of grass, composed of dry grass and fine bent, and wound all round leaving

Here the hill's gentle slope to the river descends,
Which, in sinuous course, through a wilderness
wends;—
There, amid lofty rocks, hung with ivy and yew,
Doth echo, the wood-nymph her pleasure pursue;
And the comb, and the glen, and the shadowy vale,
Invite the fond lover to tell his soft tale.
The woods and thick copses, as mansions of rest,
Many warblers oft choose for their home and their
nest;

an arched entrance level with the ground. Feeds on insects and grass seeds; flesh good, little inferior to the quail. Inhabits North America from Canada to New Orleans.—Though this well known species cannot boast of the powers of song which distinguish the sky-lark of Europe, yet in richness of plumage as well as in sweetness of voice, as far as its few notes extend, it is eminently superior. It differs however from the tribe in wanting the long straight hind claw. WILSON.

The *Obscura*, ROCK-LARK, *Dusky-Lark*, or *Sea-Lark*, inhabits rocky places in England, and most probably other parts of Europe; it is about seven inches long; solitary and sings little; note like the chirp of a grasshopper.—The *Minor*, FIELD-LARK, *Lesser Field-lark*, *Short-heeled Field-lark*, or *Meadow-lark*, visits this country in the spring; sometimes mistaken for the Tit-lark. The *Nemorosa* vel *cristata*, CRESTED-LARK, or *Lesser-Crested-lark*, is said to inhabit Europe, and like the Bulfinch, to learn with ease to repeat tunes played or sung to it. Ornithologists are not however, agreed about the identity or even existence of this bird. The *Trivialis*, PIPIT-LARK, or *Pippit*, has the upper parts of the body a rusty olivaceous-brown streaked with dusky, beneath, ferruginous. The *Rubra*, RED-LARK, or *Lark from Pennsylvania*, is rather larger than the Sky-lark, and a rare species in this country.

A place where content in a cottage might dwell;—
A place that a hermit might choose for his cell;—
Where, afar from all strife and all tumult and pride,
The nymph *Tranquil Pleasure* delights to reside;—
Where, in meadow or grove or the woodlands among,
The BIRDS may be heard in melodious song.
The TIME, when the Spring, in his splendid array,
Commanded cold Winter to hasten away;—
When the woods and the groves, decked in garments of green,
With laughing delight and with pleasure were seen.
The cowslip with fragrance the meadow perfum'd,
And the primrose the dark bank with yellow illum'd;
The cuckoo flower peep'd from the pasture's soft bed,
And the yellow ranunculus* lifted her head.
The violet drooping seemed ready to die;
To part with such sweetness, ah! who will not sigh?
The THRUSH'S, the BLACKBIRD'S, and NIGHTINGALE'S, song
Were heard now and then the dark copses among;
Whilst a crowd of soft melodists, hid in the grove,
Seem'd anxious their musical powers to prove:
In a hedge sang the BLACK-CAP, what time in the yew,
The WOOD-PIGEON cried "*Two, two, Taffy, take two.*"
Other PIGEONS (3) e'er active, and oft on the wing,
Proclaim'd, by their cooing, the presence of spring.

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(3). ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) PIGEON, DOVE, &c.
The genus *Columba*, (*Linn.*) to which the COMMON PIGEON, or *Columba Domestica* belongs, is a very extensive one,

* *Ranunculus acris*—BUTTERCUP or GOLDCUP.

The WINTER BIRDS all were quite ready for flight,
But most of them tarried to see the gay sight.

consisting of more than one hundred and thirty species, the characteristics of which are, a straight bill, descending towards the tip; nostrils oblong, half covered with a soft, tumid membrane. The *cooing* of this tribe of birds is well known, and by which it appears to be peculiarly distinguished from every other genus. The young are also fed with grain made soft in the crop and ejected into their mouths from the beaks of the parent birds. On this account, as well as some other peculiarities, they are arranged by Dr. LATHAM as a separate *order*, consisting of *one* genus only; Mr. VIGORS has arranged it among the RASORS. The following are the chief:

The *Domestica*, DOMESTIC or *Common Pigeon*, is too well known to need description. It inhabits and is domesticated in almost every part of Europe and Asia. The *varieties* are very numerous: the *Rough-footed*, the *Tumbler*, the *Horseman*, the *Carrier*, and the *Fan-tail*, are among the chief. It is about fourteen inches long, and exceedingly variable in its colours; lays from nine to eleven times a year; eggs two, white; time of incubation from fifteen to eighteen days; feeds on grain; flesh, it is scarcely necessary to say, generally esteemed. See the conclusion of this note; and also the articles STOCK-DOVE and ROCK-DOVE.

Pigeon-Houses are of various kinds. Where the numbers kept are not large they are usually of wood of a triangular shape, and fixed against a wall out of the reach of vermin and other annoyance; but where a large number is kept,

> "Some *tower rotund*
> Shall to the pigeons and their callow young
> Safe roost afford."
>
> MASON'S *English Garden*, book iv.

The *Œnas*, STOCK-PIGEON, or *Stock-dove*, is bluish, neck glossy

The morning walk'd forth in fair beauty's bright
dress;
The sun rose delighted all things to caress;

green; double band on the wings, and tip of the tail blackish; throat and breast claret colour; claws black; fourteen inches long; inhabits old turrets and rocky banks of Europe and Siberia; found also in this country; breeds sometimes in old rabbit burrows, sometimes on trees; migrates southerly in winter; some however remain in England the whole of the year.

This has been supposed by some naturalists to be the pigeon whence all our *domestic* pigeons are derived. The Rev. Mr. JENYNS, however, in his *Ornithology of Cambridgeshire*, lately published in the Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, says, as far as he has observed, that "the *Stock-dove* never coos, but utters only a hollow rumbling note during the breeding season, which may be heard at a considerable distance. MONTAGUE," he continues, "has evidently confounded this species with the ROCK-DOVE, (*Columba livia* TEMM.) which is supposed to be the origin of our dove-house pigeons, and is found in a wild state upon some of the steep shores and cliffs of Great Britain, but is not a native of Cambridgeshire." He adds, "the *Stock-dove* and *Ring-dove* are indiscriminately called wood-pigeons by the country people."

From this we gather what great uncertainty and confusion still prevails on one of the commonest subjects of ornithology; and the necessity there is for a more correct record of facts concerning it. I may just add, I never heard of any *Wood-pigeons* in Somersetshire that do not coo. With great deference to the Rev. Mr. JENYNS, I suspect that many persons would be disposed to call the "hollow rumbling notes" of this bird, *cooing*, which I believe I heard in *Forest-hill* wood, in May 1827.

The *Poets* generally concur with the commonly received opinion, that the *Stock-dove* coos; and although, as we have seen in the Introduction, their statements are not to be implicitly relied

What time became ting'd with his radiance the sky,
The EAGLE majestic was soaring on high;

on, yet, where so much concurrent testimony is extant, the subject most certainly deserves further inquiry; and in this respect Mr. JENYNS merits the thanks of the Natural Historian for the facts which he has recorded concerning this bird; and it is to be hoped that we shall, ere long, become better acquainted with the *columba livia,* or ROCK-DOVE, to which the reverend gentleman has alluded.

I heard a Stock-dove sing or say,
His homely tale this very day;
His voice was *buried among trees,*
Yet to be come at by the breeze:
He did not cease; but cooed and cooed;
And somewhat pensively he wooed;
He sang of love with quiet blending,
Slow to begin and never ending;
Of serious faith, and inward glee,
That was the song—the song for me.

WORDSWORTH.

The Stock-dove, recluse with her mate,
Conceals her fond bliss in the grove,
And, murmuring, seems to repeat,
That May is the mother of love.

CUNNINGHAM.

For an account of the RING-DOVE or WOOD-PIGEON, see the RING-DOVE'S LAMENT.

The *Livia,* ROCK-DOVE, *Wild-dove, White-rumped Pigeon,* or *Rockier,* has been considered, by some ornithologists, as a separate species, by Dr. LATHAM as a variety only of the *Stock-dove.* Mr. SELBY, in his *Illustrations of British Ornithology,* considers it as a distinct species, in this agreeing with the Rev. Mr. JENYNS as noticed in the last article. The Rock-dove is said, in

Around him flew Falcons, the while in the air
Birds many and noisy his presence declare.

form and size, to be very nearly like the Stock-dove, but the Rock-dove is rather more slender; the predominant shades of each are much the same, the principal variations consisting in the colour of the rump, which, in the Stock-dove, is invariably bluish grey, but in the Rock-dove generally *white*, hence one of its names. The habits of these two species are however more strongly marked; while the *Stock-dove* inhabits woods and the interior of the country, the *Rock-dove* is always met with in rocky places and those principally on the sea coast. It is found on various cliffs on our own shores, particularly on Caldy island in South Wales, and in the Orkneys, breeding in the innermost recesses of caves of very large dimensions, beyond the situation chosen by auks, gulls, &c. It is also very numerous on the rocky islands of the Mediterranean, abundant in North Africa and on the island of Teneriffe. In short it appears that this species, and not the *Stock-dove*, is the genuine original of our Domestic Pigeons. Eggs two, white; breeds in a wild state only two or three times a year.

The *Turtur*, Dove, Turtle Dove, *Common Turtle*, or *Culver*,* inhabits Europe, China, and India; it arrives in this country in the spring and leaves it in September; the back is grey, breast flesh colour; on each side of the neck a spot of black, feathers tipt with white; tail feathers tipt with white; length twelve inches. Two other varieties. Migrates in flocks; breeds in thick woods; very shy and retired; a pest to fields of peas. It is found in this country chiefly in Kent; more rarely in the west or north; I never saw it in a wild state in Somersetshire. Its nest is said to be composed of sticks; eggs two, white.

The supposed *faithfulness* of this bird to its mate is very ques-

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* "Like as the *Culver* on the bared bough
Sits mourning for the absence of her mate."
Spencer, *Sonnet* lxxxviii.

On a rock high, commanding, the monarch, at length,
Perch'd with grace while displaying his wings of broad
strength.

tionable, although the poets have been so profuse in their appeals to it. One of the latest poems relative to the DOVE, is written and set to music by Mr. BOWLES; it is a *song* of which the following is the first stanza:

" Go beautiful and gentle DOVE
And greet the morning ray,
For lo! the sun shines bright above,
And the rain is pass'd away."

The *Carolinensis*, CAROLINA PIGEON, or *Turtle-dove*, of the United States, is twelve inches long; upper part of the neck and wings slaty blue; back, scapulars, and lesser wing coverts, ashy brown; tertials spotted with black; primaries edged with white; beneath whitish; eggs two, deposited in a nest rudely constructed in an evergreen, a vine, an apple tree, or on the ground; male and female unite in feeding the young. Its cooing sounds very melancholy, but is nevertheless not so, in reality, being the notes of its amorous affection; feeds on a variety of seeds and berries: flesh good. This bird winters in the Southern, and is frequent in the Northern States of America, during the summer.

The *Passerina*, GROUND PIGEON, or *Mountain Dove*, has a purplish body, wings and tail dusky. Three other varieties; six and a quarter inches long; inhabits the warm parts of America; feeds on seeds; frequents rocky and mountainous places.

" Musical
The love-lorn cooing of the *mountain dove*
That woos to pleasing thoughtfulness the soul."
GRAINGER'S *Sugar-cane*.

The *Migratoria*, or PASSENGER PIGEON, inhabits North America; body above cinereous, beneath vinaceous; breast

All Nature was pleas'd: even the clouds o'er the earth
In airy light shadows seemed dancing with mirth ;

rufous; wing coverts spotted with black; sides of the neck purple ; from fifteen to sixteen inches long; flies in large flocks; troublesome to rice and corn fields. They are seen over the back woods of America, flying in columns of ten miles long, where they are caught in a similar way that Bird-catchers around London catch small birds, with nets, and some pigeons tied to sticks as fluttering decoys. They are also obtained in other ways. Their nests are on trees; but they hatch only one bird at a time, which, while yet young, becomes very fat. This bird affords, by its abundance, considerable support not only to the Indians but to the whites; and also to birds of prey, and even pigs, who pick up the young pigeons that fall from the nests to the ground.

The *Coronata*, or GREAT CROWNED INDIAN PIGEON, is bluish, above cinereous; shoulders ferruginous; crest erect, compressed, five inches long; size of a turkey; brought occasionally alive to this country. Although so gigantic a pigeon, it has the *cooing* and all the other characteristics of the tribe. Inhabits New Guinea; it is, of course, a fine and valuable bird.

The *Bantamensis* has a loud cooing note, for which, in its native island, Java, it is much admired; a great price is sometimes paid for this bird. HORSFIELD.

Of all the pigeon tribe the *Carrier* and *Horseman* are the most extraordinary. These, by training, may be taken to a great distance from their home, and yet they will, on being let loose, immediately fly to their accustomed habitation.

"Led by what chart, transports the timid dove—
The wreaths of conquest, or the vows of love?
Say, through the clouds what compass points her flight?
Monarchs have gaz'd and nations bless'd the sight.
Pile rocks on rocks, bid woods and mountains rise,
Eclipse her native shades, her native skies;—
'Tis vain! through Ether's pathless wilds she goes,
And lights at last where all her cares repose.

Or disparting like rocks, or as turrets high, strong,
They gracefully mov'd fields of ether along;

> Sweet bird, thy truth shall Harlem's walls attest,
> And unborn ages consecrate thy nest."
>
> ROGERS's *Pleasures of Memory.*

During the siege of Harlem when that city was reduced to the last extremity, and on the point of opening its gates to a base and barbarous enemy, a design was formed to relieve it; the intelligence was conveyed to the citizens by a letter which was tied under the wing of a *Pigeon.* Pliny also informs us, that the same messenger was employed at the siege of Mutina.

The habits and manners of the domestic pigeon are interesting. The mode in which they feed their young, by placing their bills in the young ones' mouths and ejecting the food from the crop by a sort of pumping, is peculiar to this tribe. Their crop and its secretion are also peculiar. See the Introduction.

Although domesticated pigeons breed very often in the year, the *Rock-dove* very rarely breeds more than twice or thrice; the increased fecundity of the tame pigeon, arising, it is said, merely from domestication; but we do not yet know enough either of the *Stock-dove* or *Rock-dove* in their wild state to describe their habits with precision. The SPORT of *shooting at pigeons* from a given distance is a very common one in the neighbourhood of London; it is extremely to be regretted that intellectual man either cannot or will not find a more rational method of employing his time. ROBERT BLOOMFIELD in his *Remains,* has touched upon this subject with his usual *naivété*—the reader who feels like myself on this subject, will be pleased to consult the *Birds and Insects' Post-Office* in that Poet's posthumous volumes.—DRAYTON well expresses a habit of this tribe:

> "And turning round and round with *cutty-coo.*"
>
> *Noah's Ark.*

Some laws are in existence for the protection of pigeons as property; they are rarely, if ever, it is presumed, acted upon.

While many a cloudling unfolded in light
His lining of gold or of silvery white.

Oh, how shall description with pencil or pen
Pourtray all the BIRDS now in grove or in glen!
Here the trees' bending branches the PERCHERS possess;
There the WADERS and SWIMMERS the waters caress;
While the SCRATCHERS of Earth sought a worm; with a bound
The SNATCHERS flew swiftly aloft and around.*

The LORD of the boundless bright realm of the AIR,
With his broad sweeping wing, the proud EAGLE, was there,†
His cere and his feet ting'd with yellowish gold;
At once he appear'd both majectic and bold:
With an eye, beak, and talons, that fierceness express,
Yet both plumage and air what is noble confess,—
A mien most imposing—a monarch supreme.
The SWAN,(4) too, sailed stately adown the clear stream;

(4) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) SWAN, GOOSE, EIDER-DUCK, DUCK, TEAL, WIDGEON, GARGANEY, &c.

The *Genus* ANAS, of Linnæus, to which the SWAN, *Anas Cygnus,* belongs, is a very large and important tribe of birds, con-

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* See the arrangement of Mr. VIGORS, as described in the *Introduction.*

† The thought in this couplet is derived from PERCIVAL, an American Poet. See note (1), article *Haliæëtos.*

His plumes of fair white and arch'd neck to display,
While the CYGNETS beside him appear'd in ash-grey.

sisting of more than on hundred and forty species; it includes not only the SWAN, GOOSE, and DUCK, but many other birds, such as the TEAL, WIDGEON, EIDER-DUCK, &c. The characteristics of the genus are, a broad bill, a broad tongue, and palmate or webbed feet. It is a very prolific tribe; some of the species are found in almost every region of the globe.

The SWAN is found both in a tame and wild state. The TAME SWAN or MUTE SWAN, *Cygnus* (*olor*), is next to the bustard, the largest of our British birds, being upwards of five feet in length, much, however, of which consisting of a very long neck; it is distinguished by its hissing; its plumage till the second year is of an ash colour, after which it becomes perfectly white. The young are called *cygnets*. Eggs six or eight; time of incubation six weeks.

The swan lives sometimes, it is said, a century, or even more; it is a powerful animal, and will sometimes attack and beat young persons. The flesh is said to be wholesome; but, at present, the cygnet only is eaten. The tame swan is frequently seen on the Thames, and, as an ornament, on many of the waters of our noblemen and others in different parts of the country. Several may be seen on the Serpentine in Hyde Park. It feeds on various food; it is generally reputed a great destroyer of the young fry of fish; it is also said to be extremely useful in clearing pieces of water from weeds; it will also eat bread and other farinacea.

The hen begins to lay in February, producing an egg every other day. Male and female labour in the formation of the nest, which consists of water plants, long grass, and sticks, generally in some retired part or inlet of the bank of the water on which they are kept. Swan's eggs are white and much larger than those of a goose.—It is extremely dangerous to be approached during incubation. This bird is sometimes called

There were FIELDFARES in troops; of the MISSEL-THRUSH few;
These their songs on the elm now and then would renew.

the *mute* swan, from its uttering no sound except its hissing. It is a stately and ornamental bird: thus Thomson:

> "The stately sailing swan
> Gives out his snowy plumage to the gale,
> And, arching proud his neck, with oary feet
> Bears onward fierce and guards his osier isle
> Protective of his young."
>
> *Spring.*

Swans and their eggs are protected by several statutes: whether they are now acted upon I am not aware.

Swan's Down, as well as the down from most of this tribe of birds is, it is well known, white, soft, and delicate; its use for beds is sufficiently appreciated by the luxurious. See forwards, article EIDER-DUCK.

The *Cygnus* (*ferus*), WILD SWAN, *Whistling Swan, Elk*, or *Hooper*, is inferior in size to the preceding; length four feet ten inches, and weighs from fifteen to twenty-five pounds. The beak is black towards the point, yellow for some distance from the base; plumage a pure white. Eggs four. It has a very loud call, greatly resembling that of a cuckoo; utters a melancholy sound when one of the flock happens to be destroyed; hence, said by the poets to sing in dying. It visits the lakes of Scotland every winter, but comes more southward only in severe weather. Found in all the northern regions of the globe.

The *Nigricollis*, or BLACK-NECKED SWAN, is found on the Falkland Islands; the *Atrata*, or BLACK SWAN, at Botany Bay. Of this last the bill is of a rich scarlet; the whole plumage (except the primaries and secondaries, which are white,) is of the most intense black. It is larger than the White Swan, of

The warbling *cock* BLACKBIRD, with deep yellow bill,
Was pleas'd his loud notes in rich cadence to trill;

which it has all the graceful action. The ancients supposed the Black Swan an imaginary or extremely rare bird. See the second part.

Of the Goose tribe, the following may be named:

The *Cygnoides*, CHINESE GOOSE, *Muscovy Goose*, or *Swan Goose*, inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa; it is about three feet long: three varieties; one from Guinea, distinguished by its erect gait and screaming, is now plentiful in this country, and said to unite well with the common goose.

The *Gambensis*, or SPARWINGED GOOSE, inhabits Africa; size of the common goose.—The *Indica*, or BARREL-HEADED GOOSE, is a native of India; flesh good.—The *Melanotus*, or BLACK-HEADED GOOSE, a native of Coromandel, is two feet nine inches long.—The *Grandis* or GREAT GOOSE of SIBERIA, is the size of the *Cygnus*; body dusky, beneath white; bill black, legs scarlet. Weighs from twenty to thirty pounds. Found in Siberia and Kamtschatka; where they are taken in great numbers; flesh, it is presumed, good. The *Hyperborea* or SNOW GOOSE, of Europe and North America, is thirty-two inches long; general colour white, except the ten first quils, which are black with white shafts; the young are blue till one year old. The most numerous and the most stupid of the goose tribe. Flies in vast flocks.—Abounds in Hudson's Bay. The *Leucoptera*, or BUSTARD GOOSE of the Falkland Islands, is from thirty-two to forty inches long; flesh good.

The *Tadorna*, SHIELDRAKE, SHELDRAKE, (or rather perhaps) SCHELT-DRAKE, *Burrow*, or *Barra-Duck*, *Bargander*, *St. George's Duck*, *Pirennet*, or *Sly Goose*, has the body variegated with white, black, and light brown, or russet; flesh rancid; eggs many, good; lays in rabbits' burrows near the sea-shore, whence probably one of its names; size of a common duck; inhabits Europe and Asia. Seen at the mouths of our salt-water rivers

Where the waters forth gushing, in murmurs down
fell,
The THRUSH a sweet music pour'd out in the dell.

in the summer season with its young, many in number, swimming after it; on the least alarm, both young and old dive with singular dexterity, and remain under the water for a considerable time.

The *Segetum*, BEAN GOOSE, or *Small Grey Goose*, is of an ash-colour; from two and a half to three feet long; a native of Hudson's Bay and the Hebrides; in autumn, comes to England in flocks, and is destructive to corn. The *Erythropus*, BERNACLE, *Clakis*, or *Canada Goose*, is found in Europe, sometimes in America, and in the winter on our sea coasts. Length two feet or more; the upper parts of the body black, so also is the tail; front white. Breeds in Greenland, Lapland, &c.—The *Bernicla*, BRENT GOOSE, *Brand Goose*, *Rat*, or *Road Goose*, or *Clatter Goose*, is brown, the head, neck, and breast, black; collar white; a native of North America, Asia, and Europe; migrates southerly in autumn; flies in wedge-shaped flocks, with perpetual cackling; flesh, when tamed, good.

The *Molissima*, *Edder*, EIDER-DUCK, *Eider Goose*, *Cuthbert Duck*, or *Colk*, is found in the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America; length twenty-two inches; bill cylindrical, cere divided behind and wrinkled. The male is white above, but black beneath and behind; the female greenish; the eggs somewhat less than those of a goose, are five, greenish, in a nest strewed with its own down taken chiefly from the breast; time of incubation a month; flesh and eggs good. Rarely if ever seen in the south of England; it breeds in Scotland, particularly on the Western Isles; and on Farn Islands, on the coast of Northumberland; it has also been seen in Norfolk.

The Eider-Duck is a long lived bird; it has been observed to occupy the same nest for twenty years successively; the *down* is the lightest and warmest known; that termed live down,

While all breathless and silent crept softly delight
To listen with day to the SONGSTER of NIGHT:

and found in the nest, is most valued; that which is plucked from the dead bird is little esteemed.—*Eider Down* is imported chiefly from Iceland and other northern countries. It is collected from the nests of the birds; if the nest be deprived of its down, the female takes a fresh quantity from her breast; but if the nest be a *second* time deprived of its down, she cannot supply it, the male then takes from his breast the necessary lining. As incubation proceeds, the lining of down increases from day to day, and at last becomes so considerable in quantity, as to envelope and entirely conceal the eggs from view. The young, as soon as hatched, are conducted to the water, to which, sometimes from the situation of the nest, they are carried in the bill of the parent bird. The food of the eider-duck is muscles and other bivalve shell-fish. This bird is with difficulty reared in confinement. SELBY, in Zoological Journal, vol. 2, page 458.

Of the *Clypeata*, or SHOVELER, there are many varieties found in Europe, Asia, and America; it is about twenty-one inches long.—The *Clangula*, or GOLDEN-EYE, is varied with black and white, head tumid violet; length about nineteen inches; inhabits as the last; found on the sea-coasts of this country in the winter.—The *Ferina*, POCHARD, *Dunbird*, *Poker*, or *Red-headed Widgeon*, is found as the last; length nearly that of the golden-eye: colours varied, black, white, and grey; flesh good; frequent in the London market in the winter.

The *Crecca*, TEAL or *Common Teal*, inhabits Europe and Asia, and is well known in the marshy districts of this country; it breeds in Norfolk and most probably in other places of Great Britain; length fourteen inches; three varieties. Flesh good.

The *Penelope*, WIDGEON, *Whewer*, or *Whim*, is found in most parts of Europe, breeds in the Northern regions, and visits England in the autumn; length twenty inches; it weighs about

In a thick, hazel copse he was warbling apart
Such notes as have never been equall'd by art.

twenty-four ounces; several varieties; flesh esteemed excellent; as well known as the teal, in the marshy regions of England.

The *Querquedula*, **Garganey**, or *Summer Teal*, is a beautiful bird, a little larger than the common teal, being seventeen inches long; found in this country in the winter; rarely seen after April, at which time it is taken, it is said, in the decoys of Somersetshire; found also throughout the north of Europe and Asia, as well as the Caspian sea, and some parts of the East Indies.

The *Anser*, or **Goose**, consists of two varieties: the *Ferus*, *Grey Lag*, *Fen*, or **Wild Goose**, is two feet nine inches long; the bill is large and elevated, of a flesh colour, tinged with yellow; head and neck ash-colour; breast and belly whitish, clouded with grey or ash-colour; back grey; legs flesh-colour. They reside in the fens the whole year, breed there, and hatch about eight or nine young; often taken and easily tamed. Towards winter they collect in great flocks. They are migratory on the continent, and also in some parts of England. They generally, when in flocks, fly in the form of a triangle. They have not the superiority of the *wild-duck*, tasting frequently of fish; the flesh is not, therefore, equal to the tame goose when properly fed.

The *Mansuetus*, or **Tame Goose**, is the preceding in a state of domestication, from which it varies in colour, but often more or less verging to grey; it is found frequently white, especially the males. The goose in general breeds only once a year; but if well kept, will often produce two broods in a season. It is said to be very long-lived; some have attained the age of 100 years. The goose sits on her eggs from twenty-seven to thirty days, and will cover from eleven to fifteen eggs. It scarcely needs to be observed, that the feathers of geese make excellent beds, for which they are plucked twice or more

That bird for whom many a harp hath been strung;—
Whose warble enraptures the old and the young;—

(sometimes *five* times) in a year. See the *House Sparrow's Speech*. Geese eat grass as well as many other vegetables, fish and worms. In the domestic state, one gander is sufficient for five geese. Besides the well known noise of geese called cackling, the gander is peculiarly distinguished by his *hissing*.

The *Moschata* or MUSCOVY DUCK, is larger than the wild duck; length two feet two inches; bill red; body varied with black, brown, white, and green-gold; in a completely wild state, the whole plumage is black, glossed with violet or green; in our menageries, the plumage is sometimes white: domesticated in almost every country. Found in a wild state about the lake Baikal, in Asia, and in Brazil. When at large, it builds on the old stumps of trees, and perches during the heat of the day on the branches of those which are well clothed. Naturally very wild, yet when tamed, associates sometimes with the common duck, the produce a mongrel breed. Eggs rounder than the common duck; in young birds, inclined to green; they lay more eggs and sit oftener than the common duck, hence, and from its hardiness, the breed deserves encouragement. Flesh good. They exhale, a *musky* odour from the gland on the rump, whence the name is supposed to be derived rather than from the region of Muscovy—but this seems to me a forced construction for the etymology of its name.

The *Boschas*, WILD DUCK, called also sometimes *Mallard*, is found on lakes, in marshes, and at the mouths of salt water rivers in different countries; and in Lincolnshire and Somersetshire, where great numbers are taken in traps, called DECOYS; in the west of England, COY-POOLS. It breeds constantly in the marshes of Norfolk and Suffolk, and most probably in many other districts of this country. The TAME DUCK is the wild duck domesticated. There are several varieties; it is generally of an ash-colour; the middle tail feathers of the *male*

With feeling's soft touch wakes the poet's sweet lyre,
And the pensive, the tender, doth often inspire.

recurvate, the head and neck of whom, in most of the coloured tribe, are shaded with green; the bill is straight; collar white. Its colour varies by domestication. Feeds on a great variety of very different food, worms, snails, &c. The duck will cover from eleven to fifteen eggs; time of incubation thirty days. It scarcely needs to be observed, that the flesh of both the wild and the tame duck is good; the last, however, depending upon the mode in which it is fed. In the domestic state, one drake is sufficient for five ducks.

"In the pond
The finely chequer'd duck before her train
Rows garrulous."

Thomson's Spring.

Decoy Pools were more frequent in the lowland districts of Somersetshire formerly than they are at present. In the parish of Mear, near Glastonbury, there were once several; at present, (1825,) not one. There is, however, one at Sharpham Park, the birth-place of Fielding; and another in Sedgemoor, near Walton.. For this information I am indebted to my friend, the Rev. W. Phelps of Wells, a gentleman whose proficiency in another department of Natural History, *Botany,* is well known.

The *Valisineria,* or Canvass-Back Duck of Wilson, is two feet long, and weighs, when in good condition, three pounds or more; it approaches nearest to the Pochard of this country, but differs in size and the general whiteness of its plumage: the head is mostly of a glossy chesnut; back, scapulars, and tertials, white, with waving lines as if pencilled; beneath white, slightly pencilled; primaries and secondaries pale slate; flesh excellent. Arrives in the United States, from the north, in October: much sought after as food.

TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

Motacilla Luscinia, (Linn.)—*Sylvia Luscinia*, (Latham.)

Thou matchless, yet modest, harmonious Bird!
Who hath not with rapture thy singing oft heard?
Who hath not oft snatch'd, what time midnight is still,
A moment to listen by copse or by rill?—
A moment, in May-time, when zephyr, not storm,
Gives the shadows of moon-light fantastical form?
Not content thou to charm us with song through the night,
Through the day, too, thy notes oft resound with delight.
O say, are they sad—dost thou grieve while thy song,
'Midst the glade, wakens echo and warbles along?
Or doth pleasure—doth mirth prompt thy wonderful lay,
Or doth love—pensive love—its soft feeling display?
Whatever the cause, be e'er hallowed thy note,
That at midnight or moonlight distends thy sweet throat.(5)

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(5) Order, Passeres, (*Linn.*) Nightingale.

The Nightingale, *Motacilla Luscinia*, (*Linn.*) the *Philomel* or *Philomela* of the poets, *Sylvia Luscinia*, (*Latham*,) is about six inches long; its colours are very plain, the head and back being of a pale tawny, dashed with olive; the throat, breast, and upper part of the belly, of a light ash colour; the lower part of the belly almost white; wings and tail tawny-red. Female

The Cuckoo was heard for the first time in song;
His voice was at once clear, resounding, and strong.

rather less than the male; the plumage of both nearly alike. In consequence of its unostentatious colours, its shyness, and its frequenting thickets and woods, it is rarely seen, and therefore little known. Builds a nest in low bushes or quick set hedges, well covered with foliage; and, it is said, sometimes on the ground; it is externally composed of dry leaves, mixed with grass and fibres lined with hair or down; eggs, four or five, olive green. It is common to Europe, Asia, and Africa. It does not appear that it has ever been found in America, although several birds in that continent are called by its name. Three varieties; one with the body entirely white; one of more than ordinary size. It is said, that there are two sub-varieties of this species; one, which sings only in the night; and another, which sings more frequently during the day. This is, I think, extremely questionable; for, if *sameness* of note be any proof, as I conceive it is, the same nightingale sings both by night and by day. Those naturalists have, therefore, made a great mistake, who state, that this bird sings only in the evening, and during the night; it may be heard in tranquil and remote woods, and even very near London, at Lee, Greenwich-park, Hornsey-wood, &c. during the day; but its song is, or seems, most harmonious in the *night*. It may be then heard, too, a considerable distance,—a mile, or even perhaps more.

The curious, in regard to the nightingale, will not be displeased with St. Pierre's account of it. "Dans nos climats le Rossignol place son nid à couvert dans un buisson, en choisissant de préférence les lieux où il y a des echos, et en observant de l'exposer au soleil du matin. Ces précautions prises, il se place aux environs, contre le tronc d'un arbre, et là confondu avec la Couleur de son écorce, et sans mouvement, il devient invisible. Mais bientôt il anime de son divin ramage l'asyle obscur qu'il s'est choisi, et il efface par l'éclat de son chant, celui

Strange SCANSOR is he: for, like HIM of the WEST,*
He never constructs for himself any nest;

de tous les plumages."* On this I beg leave to observe, that, whatever may be the fact in France, relative to the nightingale's preference for places where there is an echo, it is by no means so in this country. I suspect, that there is more poetry than truth in the statement.

The nightingale is the most celebrated of all the feathered race for its song. The poets have, in all ages, and most European countries, made it the theme of their verses. It visits this country towards the latter end of April, and takes its departure in August, as it is said; but I suspect not so soon. We still want a knowledge of more facts to make us completely acquainted with the natural history of this bird. MONTAGU, who appears to have been a very accurate observer, says that, if by accident the female is killed, the male resumes his song again, and will continue to sing very late in the summer, or till he finds another mate. It is rarely found in Scotland, the west of Devonshire, or Cornwall; and, I conclude, not in Ireland. Its usual habitation in this country is within the segment of a circle, Dover being the centre, whose radii do not exceed in length *two hundred miles*, and not one hundred and fifty, as has been frequently stated. Its time of singing, in its natural state, is only from its arrival till about Midsummer; but it will, it is said, when domesticated, sing nine months in the year. Its food, in a domesticated state, may be spiders, wood-lice, ants' eggs, flies, and worms; it is chiefly, however, I understand, *German paste*, a composition well known in the bird-shops of the metropolis. It requires to be kept in a warm place in winter, or it will die. It is said that the nightingale is common in the bird-shops, not only at *Venice*, but even at *Moscow*, and that it *there*

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* *Emberiza pecoris*, or COW-BUNTING: see Part II.

† *Etudes de la Nature*, tom. iii. p. 309, Hamburgh edit. 1797.

All foundlings his offspring—no moment of care
Devotes male or female their children to rear.

sings as finely as in its native woods; but this is questionable. It is occasionally to be seen in cages in London, where it sings during many months of the year; but it is not, I believe, ever known to breed in confinement here. See Mr. SWEET's letter in the Introduction.

Although this bird in its natural state sings only for about two months in the year, yet COWPER, the celebrated poet, once heard it sing on *New Year's Day*, and has recorded the fact in some beautiful lines; and which fact, but from such an authority, I should be very much disposed to question. It is probable, however, that the nightingale, which Cowper heard, was domesticated. An opinion has been occasionally entertained, that *this bird usually sleeps on, or with its breast against a thorn;* under the impression, I suppose, that, in such a painful situation, it would necessarily remain awake. The thought seems puerile; and is not, of course, entitled to the least credit; yet YOUNG, THOMPSON, and Sir PHILIP SIDNEY, have alluded to the supposed fact; *Lord Byron* treats it as a *fable:*

> "The Nightingale, that sings with the deep thorn,
> Which fable places in her breast of wail,
> Is lighter far of heart and voice than those
> Whose headlong passions form their proper woes."
>
> DON JUAN, Canto VI.

> "Grief's sharpest *thorn* hard pressing on my breast,
> I strive with wakeful melody to cheer
> The sullen gloom, sweet *Philomel!* like thee,
> And call the stars to listen."
>
> YOUNG's *Night Thoughts*, Night I.

> "The lowly *Nightingale*,
> A *thorn her pillow*, trills her doleful tale."
>
> THOMPSON's *Hymn to May*.

Of habits unsocial—affection devoid,
His nurse's own children are by him destroy'd.

The reader will have the goodness to remember, that the poet here quoted is not **Thomson**, the author of the *Seasons*, but **William Thompson**, author of *Sickness, a Poem, Hymn to May*, and some *Garden Inscriptions*, which well deserve the attention of the lovers of poetry.

"The Nightingale, as soon as April bringeth
Unto her rested sense a perfect waking,
Which late bare earth, proud of new clothing, springeth,
Sings out her woes, a *thorn* her song-book making."
Sir **Philip Sidney**.

In this passage it is evident, that **Sidney** supposed the nightingale a dormant winter bird,—one of the *seven-sleepers*. Notwithstanding its limited range of residence in this country, it is said to be found on the continent as far north as Sweden. Its winter residence is supposed to be Asia; of course, the warmer parts. The *sonnets* and other *addresses* to the Nightingale are, in our own language, innumerable; some have been already alluded to in the Introduction; one by **Milton**, beginning

"O Nightingale! that on yon bloomy spray
Warblest at eve when all the woods are still:"

has been much admired. Another by Mrs. **Charlotte Smith**, the first line of which is

"Sweet poet of the wood,—a long adieu!"

has been also frequently quoted in the miscellanies. *An evening address to the Nightingale*, by **Shaw**, has also had an extensive circulation. They all, with very few exceptions, make the song and sentiments of this bird melancholy, sorrowful, or at least pensive. For other observations on this charming bird, see the **Introduction**.

TO THE CUCKOO.

Cuculus Canorus. (LINN.)

THOU monotonous Bird! whom we ne'er wish away,—
Who hears thee not pleas'd at the threshold of May?
Thy advent reminds us of all that is sweet,
Which Nature benignant, now lays at our feet;—
Sweet flowers—Sweet meadows—Sweet birds, and their loves;
Sweet sunshiny mornings, and sweet shady groves;—
Sweet smiles of the maiden—Sweet looks of the youth,
And sweet asseverations, too, prompted by truth;
Sweet promise of plenty throughout the rich dale;
And sweet the Bees' humming in meadow and vale;
Of the Summer's approach—of the presence of Spring,
For ever, sweet CUCKOO! continue to sing.
Oh who then, dear Bird! could e'er wish thee away?
Who hears thee not pleas'd at the threshold of May?(6)

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(6) ORDER, PICÆ, *(Linn.)* CUCKOO the COMMON, the HONEY GUIDE, the SACRED, &c.

The genus *Cuculus*, *(Linn.)* or CUCKOO, comprehends more than eighty species scattered over the globe, the characteristics of which are, a bill somewhat arched, tongue short, tail with ten feathers, toes, two backwards, two forwards; they belong, of course, to the scansorial tribe. The following are most deserving notice.

The *Canorus*, CUCKOO, COMMON CUCKOO or *Gookoo*, is fourteen inches long; body above, an ash, or rather a lead colour; beneath, whitish, transversely streaked with black-brown. Two

The House-Sparrows, Chaffinches, noisy became;—
But their notes, void of melody, always the same.

other varieties, one with body varied with reddish, the other grey, covered with a few white dots. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa; said to feed on insects, and the *larvæ* of moths; migrates. Is heard towards the end of April, and generally ceases to sing about the beginning of July. I heard it at Lewisham, in Kent, in the year 1824, on the 13th of that month; it has been heard in Norfolk as late as the last day of it. It would seem, from these facts, that it is heard later in the *south-eastern* portion of this island, than any where else. Flesh good. The cuckoo is a bird with considerable powers of flight; the body is slender, wings and tail long; the plumage, although unostentatious, is yet handsome.

Mr. Yarrel, to whom we are indebted for an account of some curious facts relative to birds, and whose paper on the evolution of the chick from the egg is alluded to in the Introduction, informs me, that he has dissected many cuckoos; that the stomach is similar in structure to the woodpecker's; and, therefore, fitted for the digestion of animal food only; that the contents of the stomach invariably indicate the presence of such food, namely, the *larvæ* of some insects. I cannot learn from any quarter that the cuckoo has been kept alive in this country (like the nightingale) throughout the year. Our ignorance of its genuine food, or the cold of the climate, or both, possibly, have prevented such preservation.

Another fact relative to this bird, for which I am indebted to Mr. Yarrel, is, that its *testes* are not larger than those of the house-sparrow; and hence, Mr. Yarrel seems disposed to infer, that the sexual organs in the cuckoo are in a very low state of excitement. May not this account for the strange anomaly of this bird's laying its eggs in other birds' nests?

The cuckoo neither makes a nest, nor hatches her own eggs;

Sea-Eagles and Buzzards, and Ospreys, were
there—
Those who give of their nests to the Grakles a
share.*

nor, as far as is known, does she nourish her offspring. The eggs are generally deposited in the nest of the *Hedge-Sparrow*, and are hatched, and the young provided for by this little bird. The cuckoo is not known to lay more than one egg in any one nest. The eggs are reddish-white, thickly spotted with blackish-brown, and smaller than those of a blackbird; they vary, however, occasionally, both in size and colour.

The cuckoo does not invariably lay her egg in the hedge-sparrow's nest, although I have never seen it in any other: it has been found in that of the *Reed-Bunting*, the *Linnet's*, and the *Wagtail's ;* and, from the circumstance of *Red-backed-Shrikes* being seen busily engaged in feeding a young cuckoo, it is conjectured by Messrs. Sheppard and Whitear, that the cuckoo occasionally lays her egg in that bird's nest.

It has been stated in a popular work, that, from the egg of the cuckoo being small for a bird of its size, the hedge-sparrow has no suspicion of the intrusion. But the eggs of the hedge-sparrow are, nevertheless, much smaller than those of the cuckoo, and are *light-blue* without a spot; it is quite improbable, therefore, that so different an egg would not be discovered. Besides, it seems very likely that the cuckoo would be seen by the hedge-sparrow in her nest. The *deception* is altogether incredible. We have no means of ascertaining the reasons for the hedge-sparrow's permitting the egg of the cuckoo to remain in her nest, no more than we have for the fact that the *Fishing-Hawk* permits the Grakle to build its nest in the suburbs of its own citadel. We must, at present, be contented with stating the facts

It was formerly suspected, that the hedge-sparrow herself

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* See Note (1), article *Haliæëtos.*

The Hover-Hawk came, too, though loth to renounce
His strong inclination on pigeons to pounce;

threw out her own eggs from the nest, or destroyed her own young, to make room for her guest, the cuckoo, under the impression, it is presumed, that it was an office of honour to be thus employed in fostering our canorous summer visitant, but more accurate observation appears to have dispelled these suspicions. Dr. Jenner, (*Philosophical Transactions* for 1788,) found that, soon after the young cuckoo is hatched by the hedge-sparrow, the eggs, or the young ones, whichsoever should happen to be in the nest, are turned out of it by the young cuckoo, and by it alone. It would seem, that the operation of expulsion is not less singular than the deposition of the egg itself in the hedge-sparrow's nest; it is effectuated by the young cuckoo, in a curious manner, with its *broad hollow back*, which, it has been conjectured, is thus formed to enable it to perform this extraordinary action. It is now also pretty well ascertained, that, when a cuckoo is hatched in the hedge-sparrow's nest, there is no room for any other occupant.

As far as I have been able to ascertain the fact, the difference between the size and plumage of the male and female cuckoo is very trifling; the male is a little larger.

The *song* of the cuckoo is supposed to be the note of the male alone; the female's note is said to be very different, much less known, and has some resemblance to the cry of the dabchick. The female, it is also said, is generally attended by two or three males in every country, from the earliest period of their arrival. This is, however, I think, too broad a statement, although it has been asserted by naturalists, that the males are always considerably more numerous than the females. Dr. Jenner (*Philosophical Transactions* for 1824,) says, that "the cuckoo is invariably a polygamist, and never pairs in this country." The truth seems to be, notwithstanding all that has been observed and published concerning this bird, that its Natural History is still

On his librating wing he was oft seen apart,
And appear'd on his prey ever ready to dart.

involved in considerable obscurity. See the *Hedge-Sparrow's Complaint.*

The SONG itself is too well known to require description, being similar to its name CUCKOO; although, I think, it approaches rather nearer to the name given to it in Somersetshire, *Gookoo.* It is almost always clear and distinct for some time after its arrival; but, towards the close of the season, there is considerable hesitation in the utterance of the notes; thus, instead of *cuckoo* being repeatedly and distinctly uttered, *cuck, cuck,* is often repeated in an indistinct tone, before the *koo* which follows.

The cuckoo usually sings during the day; but, on May 1st, 1822, the *Nightingale* and *Cuckoo* were heard to sing at Shefford, in Bedfordshire, the whole night through, by Mr. Inskip, of Shefford, as he believed, in *competition;* ROBERT BLOOMFIELD, then resident also at Shefford, was likewise a witness of this extraordinary fact, an allusion to which will be found in the "Remains" of that poet lately published, as well as several other curious particulars concerning birds, under the head of *the Bird and Insects' Post-Office,* which every lover of Natural History should peruse. See also the *Examiner* for May 26, 1822, where it is also stated, that the cuckoo was heard several times during the same season as late as ten or eleven o'clock at night. It is scarcely necessary to add, that these are, in this country, rare occurrences. I heard the cuckoo in Greenwich-Park, May 22, 1826, at nearly nine o'clock at night, one hour after sun-set.

The assertion of Montagu, whose accuracy may in general be relied on, that the cuckoo almost invariably leaves us the first day of July, is very incorrect. It is seen much later than that, very often in August, although it does not sing in that month.

I once had an opportunity of seeing, in Somersetshire, a

There were Ringtails and Lanners, and Gos-
hawks, a few;
And the Falcons, like aides-de-camp, round about
flew;

hedge-sparrow feed a young cuckoo for about three weeks. It was taken from a hedge-sparrow's nest in a hedge in my father's garden, a few yards only from the dwelling-house, soon after it was hatched, and immediately placed in a large blackbird's cage, the door of which was left open, the cage being placed a short distance from the hedge whence the bird was taken. The hedge-sparrow went regularly into the cage with food to the cuckoo, till it became able to fly; the door was then closed, and she fed it through the bars of the cage, but in about three weeks deserted it. We afterwards supplied it with bread and milk, and *earthworms*, which last, on being placed in its mouth, it devoured most greedily; but it seemed unwilling, or unable, to pick up either worms or the bread-and-milk. When it attempted to pick up its food, which it sometimes did, the head and neck were first drawn back slowly, and then darted forward in a way that seemed formidable; but, nevertheless, was very inefficient as a process for obtaining food. This bird arrived at a considerable size, but it was generally very sluggish and inactive. It was found dead in its cage one morning some time in August, it was conjectured chiefly from cold; but, probably, also, from a deficiency, or total want of its natural food. It was, when first taken, and for some time afterwards, both in appearance and in its motions, a disgusting animal; as it grew up, however, its appearance improved.

And here I cannot avoid hinting my suspicions, that the cuckoo, even when at maturity, might be fed sometimes by other birds; certain it is, that it is very often accompanied in its flight by one or more small birds, for what purpose I could never ascertain. See the *Note* on the Wryneck. As, however, the cuckoo is a scansorial bird, it is very possible that it

The KITE, too, slow moving, was seen midst the host.
Many FULMARS and RAZOR-BILLS came from the
coast.

may obtain its food unseen by climbing about on the branches of trees where it is generally heard to sing; it does not often alight on the ground; the *elm* is one of its favourites.

The cuckoo is, it is said, found in Java, and some other of the Asiatic isles, but it is never heard to sing there. There is, in the *Museum* of the *East India Company*, a specimen marked *Cuculus Canorus*, a native of Java; but I have great doubt, from the smallness of its size and difference in colours, compared with our cuckoo, whether it be the same species.

Till lately, it was not known that any other bird laid its eggs in the nest of other birds, besides the cuckoo; it is now, however, well ascertained, that an American bird, called in America COWPEN or COW-BUNTING, (see the *Notes* of the Second Part,) lays its eggs in other birds' nests, and takes no care whatever of its offspring.

Upon the whole, the Natural History of this bird is most extraordinary; and I have, therefore, been somewhat minute concerning it. Its notes, although monotonous, are mingled with some of our most agreeable associations, with the vivifying Spring, with May, and the season of flowers.

The poems containing allusions to the cuckoo are innumerable; LOGAN has given us a beautiful little *Ode to the Cuckoo*, with which the reader will be much pleased. I cannot find room for it here; the following is the first stanza of it:

"Hail, beauteous stranger of the grove,
Thou messenger of spring!
Now Heaven repairs thy rural seat,
And woods thy welcome sing."

The *Indicator*, or HONEY GUIDE CUCKOO, is a rusty grey, and is fond of honey; it inhabits the interior of Africa; its notes

Some Pheasants(7) were there, too, in robes of bright
dye;
The Rooks, e'er gregarious, came soaring on high:

resemble *chern*, *chern*, by which it is said to conduct the inhabitants to the nests of the wild bees; hence, it is highly esteemed by the Hottentots, who deem it criminal to injure or destroy it.

The *Honoratus*, or the Sacred Cuckoo, having a blackish body spotted with white, inhabits Malabar; feeds on reptiles injurious to vegetation, and hence preserved with great care, and venerated by the natives.

The *Vetula*, or Long-billed rain Cuckoo, inhabits Jamaica, is easily tamed, and sings before rain; it is fifteen inches long, body brownish, bill long, flies short, feeds on insects, worms, and small serpents.

The *Orientalis*, a native of Java, has a note conveyed by the letters *Toohoo*; or, as Dr. Horsfield has it, *Tuhu*.

The *Flavus* is also a native of Java, and perhaps the most musical of the tribe; it has three different strains. It is considered, however, by the natives of that island, as a bird of bad omen.—Horsfield.

(7) Order, Gallina, *(Linn.)* Pheasant, the Common, the Courier, the Golden, Cock and Hen, &c.

The *Genus* Phasianus of Linnæus, or Pheasant, consists of twenty-four species scattered over the globe; it includes, not only the *Pheasant*, properly so called, but also the *Cock and Hen*, those well-known domestic birds. This tribe is distinguished by a short, strong bill; cheeks covered with a smooth, naked skin; legs generally with spurs. The following are the chief:

The *Colchicus*, Pheasant, or Common Pheasant, comprises the following varieties:—*Common Pheasant*, rufous, head blue;—the *Ringed Pheasant*, collar white;—the *Variegated Pheasant*,

Those whom soon will science instruct us to know,
By their *white-yellow* beaks from the black of the
Crow.—

white varied with rufous;—the *White Pheasant*, white, with small black spots on the neck;—the *Pied Pheasant*, rufous, varied with brown;—the *Turkey Pheasant*. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa; from two to three feet long; domesticated every where; in breeding time, above the ears on each side, is a golden feathered tuft like a horn. From its being a bird of heavy flight, it has never been able to visit America. It is said, however, to be reared in St. Domingo, where it was taken by the Spaniards. Of all birds, except the peacock, the pheasant has the most beautiful and variegated plumage. The varieties are produced either by climate or domestication. In its wild state, it feeds upon all kinds of grain and herbage, and, doubtless, worms. The nest is rude, and on the ground, in some secret place; eggs from twelve to twenty; when they are carried away, the female continues to lay like the common hen. The young must be supplied with ant's eggs, their only proper food. From its size, and the delicacy of its flesh, the pheasant is, of course, a valuable bird; although plentiful in some districts of this country, it is not so common in the north, and is rarely seen in Scotland; nor is it found often on marshy land, even in the west, although plentifully there on hilly regions, where shelter and food can be obtained. Pope has finely, yet painfully, described the *Pheasant* in his *Windsor Forest:*

"See! from the brake the whirring pheasant springs,
And mounts exulting on triumphant wings;
Short is his joy, he feels the fiery wound,
Flutters in blood, and panting, beats the ground.
Ah! what avail his glossy varying dyes,
His purple crest and scarlet-circled eyes,
The vivid green his shining plumes unfold,
His painted wings, and breast that flames with gold!"

Those whom MAN, for his SPORT, is oft pleas'd to
destroy,
Amidst vinous libations and boisterous joy.—

This, of course, applies to the *cock* pheasant; the colours of the *hen* are neither so intense nor brilliant.

The *Gallus*, or COMMON COCK and HEN, are too well known to need description. Fifteen varieties have been named, as follow: the *Wild Cock*, the *Common Cock*, the *Crested Cock*, the *Darking Cock*, the *Frizzled Cock*, the *Persian Cock*, the *Dwarf Cock*, the *Bantam Cock*, the *Rough-legged Cock*, the *Turkish Cock*, the *Paduan Cock*, the *Negro Cock*, the *Crowned Hen*, the *Horned Cock*, and the *Silk Cock*.

The cock and hen came originally from Asia. The common hen is, perhaps, the most prolific of birds; if well fed, excepting about two months in the moulting season, she frequently lays an egg a day. When in a wild state, she begins to sit upon her eggs, after laying fifteen or sixteen; and, it is only from the circumstance of taking away the eggs, that she produces a greater number when domesticated.

In Egypt, the eggs of the hen are hatched in stoves peculiarly adapted to the purpose; but it does not appear, from all the experiments hitherto made in this country, including those by the aid of steam, that any method of rearing chicken which has been devised, is so good as that of suffering the hen herself to hatch and rear her own offspring. The reader, who should be desirous of obtaining more information relative to the rearing and management of domestic poultry, may consult my *Family Cyclopædia* articles, HEN, DUCK, GOOSE, TURKEY, &c. It seems probable, however, that the hatching of chicken by STEAM in *towns*, where ROOM is wanted for the roving of the natural hen, and, of course, with difficulty obtained, might be made useful and profitable, chiefly by an equable application of heat as a succedaneum for the brooding of the natural mother.

The cock is, naturally, a very pugnacious animal; the young

Yes, hath HE, *of high intellect,* oft, in his pride,
With the blood of the Rook his hands *wantonly* dyed.

cock chicken begin to fight long before they are half grown. The full grown cock will often attack animals much larger than himself; the cock turkey is, in general, no match for him. I once had a cock so extremely violent and fierce, that young persons could not venture near him; he has even frequently attacked grown people.

The cock has been a subject of considerable interest with the poets; and, in consequence, he has been very commonly called by them "*Chanticleer.*"

> "Within this homestead liv'd without a peer
> For crowing loud, the noble *Chanticleer.*"—DRYDEN.

MILTON has also finely described this bird.

> "While the cock with lively din
> Scatters the rear of darkness thin;
> And to the stack, or the barn door,
> Stoutly struts his dames before."—L'ALLEGRO.

Of the game of *cock-fighting*, I can only say, that it is a barbarous sport, and ill becomes an intelligent being; the same may be said of *cock-squailing*, a sport, I am afraid, not yet wholly unknown in the west. See my *Observations on the Dialects of the West of England*, &c.

The *Mexicanus*, or COURIER PHEASANT, is tawny-white; tail long, shining green; inhabits New Spain; eighteen inches long; slow in flight, but runs fast. The *Cristatus*, or CRESTED PHEASANT, is brown above, beneath reddish-white, head crested; twenty-two inches long; feeds on serpents, worms, and insects; inhabits New Spain. The *Superbus*, or GOLDEN CHINESE PHEASANT, is rufous, varied with green and blue; without spurs; inhabits China. The *Argus*, or ARGUS PHEASANT, is pale yellow, spotted with black; face red; size of a turkey; inhabits Chinese Tartary.

TO THE ROOK.

Corvus Frugilegus. (LINN.)

THOU social, thou noisy, intelligent BIRD!
How oft I, delighted, thy *cawing* have heard!
When infancy prompted my lisp, thy loud voice
I heard soon as morning arose to rejoice;
And my youth, long beside thy high dwelling, was taught
That *happiness* was not in *towns* to be sought;
And since hath experience proclaim'd the same truth,
Which, alas! I had heard, but obey'd not in youth.
How oft have I seen thee, with labouring breast,
Long branches and twigs bear to fashion thy nest,
While the wind drove thee far from thy dwelling away,
Till, wheeling around, thou regained'st the spray;—
Then, plucking the hairs from the back of the ox;
Or, seeking of wool many soft and warm locks.
How oft have I seen, heard thee provender bring,—
Feed thy mate, or thy young, and away on the wing.*

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* The noise made by the female rook, during her incubation, at the approach of the male with food, and when receiving it from him, and that made also by the young rooks, at the approach of the parent bird, is so singular, and so well known by those acquainted with it, that *hearing* it alone is sufficient to indicate what process is about to take place.

How often at morn from my window I'd look
To see thee, to hear thee, affectionate ROOK !(⁸)

(⁸) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) ROOK, RAVEN, CROW, MAGPIE, JACK-DAW, JAY, &c.

The *Genus* CORVUS of *Linnæus* to which the *Rook* belongs, is a numerous tribe, many of them well known in this country. Above seventy species are scattered over the globe, the greater part of which are found in almost every climate. The bill is convex, sharp-edged, having a small tooth-like process near the point. They are prolific, social, and clamorous; building generally in trees; eggs five or six; their food is mixed, some animal, some vegetable. The following are the chief:

The *Frugilegus*, or ROOK, is black, with a bill yellowish white, by which it may be readily distinguished from the Crow, the size and colours of both birds being nearly the same. Inhabits Europe and Western Siberia, and well known in this country; builds in large communities called *Rookeries*, generally on the *elm*, which it prefers, but sometimes on other trees. Flies abroad, morning and evening, at certain periods of the year, in great flocks; is very noisy. Found in this country the whole year round, but said to be in France and Silesia migratory. It is a bird of considerable intelligence; it is, besides, extremely useful by feeding on large quantities of worms and the larvæ of destructive insects, following the plough for such purposes. It also feeds on corn, and will, if not prevented, pick out, after they are dibbled, both peas and beans, from the holes, with a precision truly astonishing; a very moderate degree of care is, however, sufficient to prevent this evil, which is greatly overbalanced by the positive good which it effects in the destruction of insects. Eggs five, bluish green, with irregular blackish spots and streaks. Flesh, when young, good. A further account of the habits of this bird will be found in the Introduction. See also a poem

Sweet sounds! that of HOME, and of PARENTS, and
THEE,
Will ever be thought of with rapture by me.

entitled the *Rookery,* in my *Somerset Dialect.* This bird, and the Crow particularly, distinguished by their *cawing.*

Mr. COLERIDGE, in a poem addressed to Mr. C. LAMB, and published in the second volume of the *Annual Anthology,* edited at Bristol by Mr. SOUTHEY, in 1800, alludes to the *creaking* of the wings of this bird when it flies:

"The *Rook*—when all was still,
Flew creaking o'er thy head."

I think that I have occasionally observed this noise of the Rook. In a note to the poem, BARTRAM is quoted as having noticed the same fact in the *Savannah Crane:* as far as I remember in regard to the Rook, the noise occurs, principally, when the bird is heavily laden with materials for its nest, or contending against the wind.

The late Lord ERSKINE wrote a *Poem* on the *Rook,* which was printed and privately circulated some years since. I have never seen it; I presume it deserves publicity.

SOMERVILE thus sings of the *Rook:*

"When feather'd troops, their social leagues dissolv'd,
Select their mates, and on the leafless elm,
The noisy *Rook* builds high her wicker nest."
Chase, Book iv.

The *Corax,* or RAVEN, is black, or bluish black; but there are several varieties; some with a few scattered white feathers, some entirely white, and others variegated with black and white; inhabits Europe, North America, New Spain, and is well known in this country. Two feet two inches long; makes

Thou social, thou noisy, intelligent BIRD!
How oft I, delighted, thy *cawing* have heard!*

a hoarse croaking noise; may be taught to speak; thievish, as indeed are many of the genus; builds in high trees, or on rocks; eggs bluish green, spotted with brown; feeds on carrion, fishes, &c.; long lived; smell said to be exquisite. The Greenlanders, it is said, eat the flesh, make the skin into garments, and the split feathers into fishing lines.

The *croaking* of the Raven is extremely disagreeable; in the silence and solitude of remote woods it is peculiarly appalling. It was formerly considered extremely ominous. The poets have, of course, seized upon this: *Drayton* says

> "The greedy *Raven* that for death doth call:"
>
> OWL.

And quotes PLINY for his authority. And SHAKESPEARE,

> "The *Raven* himself is hoarse
> That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
> Under my battlements."
>
> *Macbeth*, Act i. Scene 5.

---

* "I hired 'em at tha cottage door,
When mornin, in tha spreng,
Wâk'd vooäth in youth an beauty too,
An birds beginn'd ta zeng.
I hired 'em in tha winter-time,
When, roustin vur awâ,
Thâ visited tha Rookery,
A whiverin by dâ."

See a poem called the ROOKERY, in my *Observations on the Dialects of the West of England*, &c. &c.

How oft hath AFFECTION—Begone thou wild dream!
Proceed we to pencil the rest of our theme.

LOGAN has

"The Raven croaks the dirge of death."

A modern poet has also taken advantage of the superstition.

"All nations have their omens drear,
Their legends wild of woe and fear.
To Cambria look—the peasant see,
Bethink him of Glendowerdy,
And shun "the Spirit's Blasted Tree."

SCOTT'S *Marmion.*

In the notes to the *sixth Canto* of which is a poem by the Rev. GEORGE WARRINGTON, entitled *the Spirit's Blasted Tree,* that contains the following lines:

"Three *ravens* gave the note of death
As through mid air they winged their way;
Then o'er his head, in rapid flight,
They croak,—they scent their destined prey.

Ill omened bird! as legends say,
Who hast the wondrous power to know,
While health fills high the throbbing veins,
The fated hour when blood must flow."

Sir WALTER SCOTT has thus alluded to the *Raven* in the *Lady of the Lake.*

"Seems he not Malice, like a ghost
That hovers o'er a slaughter'd host?
Or *Raven* on the blasted oak,
That, watching while the deer is broke,
His morsel claims with sullen croak?"

Whatever might have been the opinions concerning this bird

The Jay and the Magpie both chatter'd aloud;
The Wren Golden-crested, apart from the
crowd,

in former times, the liberal intelligence of the present age can only regard them with a smile—the poor Raven, harsh as its notes are, may now croak in peace,—without fear and without any accompanying malediction. See a curious poem entitled the *Raven*, in the Anthology, vol. ii. page 240, written, it is presumed, by Southey.

The *Corone*, Crow, Common Crow, *Carrion Crow*, or *Gor Crow*, inhabits Europe, Siberia, North America, New Guinea, New Holland, Madeira, and this country: it is entirely black; two other varieties; one variegated with white, the other entirely white; eighteen inches long; feeds on carrion or small weak animals, fruit, and grain; builds in lofty trees; nest always solitary; eggs bluish green, with black streaks and spots; usually five in number; rarely at any time of the year gregarious.

The *Cornix*, Hooded-Crow, *Royston-Crow, Dun-Crow, Scare-Crow*, or *Buting-Crow*, is dark ash colour, head, throat, wings, and tail, black; twenty-two inches long; eggs bluish green, with blackish brown spots; feeds on almost every thing; inhabits Europe, Asia, and this country; migrates. See the Introduction.

The *Monedula*, Jack-Daw, *Daw*, or *Chough*, inhabits Europe, and West Siberia, one variety Persia; well known in England. There are numerous varieties, the principal in this country is black; but some of the varieties are brown, others white; others with the wings white, and a white collar round the neck; thirteen inches long; builds in old turrets or lofty rocks, sometimes in rabbit holes; eggs pale, less, and not so much spotted as those of the Hooded-crow; very gregarious and easily tamed; thievish; feeds on insects, grains, and seeds; utters a harsh, shrill cry, or squeak.

With the REDBREAST, in converse, delighted was seen,
On a broad branching oak or some tall evergreen.

Shakespeare has mentioned this bird under the name of *chough*, in his description of Dover Cliffs, *King Lear*, Act iii. Scene 6.

> "The crows and *choughs* that wing the midway air
> Scarce seem so gross as beetles."

And COWPER has written a pleasing poem called the JACK-DAW; it begins thus:

> "There is a bird who by his coat,
> And by the hoarseness of his note,
> Might be supposed a crow:
> A great frequenter of the church,
> Where bishop-like he finds a perch,
> And dormitory too."

The note, however, of the Jack-daw, is much more shrill than the Crow's, and can scarcely be mistaken for it,—indeed, never, by an accurate observer.

The *Glandarius*, or JAY, inhabits the woods of Europe and Siberia, and is well known in this country. The wing coverts are blue, with transverse black and blue lines; body pale rusty purple, mixed with grey; two varieties. Thirteen inches long; very docile, easily tamed, and may be taught to speak; eggs six, dull olive, spotted with brown, size of a pigeon's. Collects nuts and other fruits, and hides what it cannot eat; feeds also on corn, small birds, and eggs.

> "Proud of cerulean stains
> From heaven's unsullied arch purloin'd, the *Jay*
> Screams hoarse."

GISBORNE'S *Walks in a Forest,—Spring.*

The *Cristatus*, or BLUE JAY, is an elegant bird, peculiar to North America; length eleven inches; head with a crest of light blue or purple feathers, which can be elevated or de-

The Woodlark his song warbled loud on the wing;
And the Titlark was eager to shew he could sing;

pressed at the will of the bird; back and upper part of the neck a fine light purple, in which the blue predominates; a collar of black proceeds in a graceful curve to the breast, where it forms a crescent; chin, cheeks, throat, and belly white, the three former tinged with blue; greater wing coverts a rich blue; the predominant colours of the whole plumage blue; beneath dirty white, faintly tinged with purple. A noisy chattering bird; notes very various; nest large; eggs five, dull olive, spotted with brown; feeds on a variety of different food, both animal and vegetable; attacks and destroys small birds, eating their eggs, &c.; may be taught to speak. It is gregarious in September and October. Found in the temperate regions of North America and in Newfoundland.

The *Caryocatactes*, or Nut-cracker, inhabits Europe and Siberia; body brown, dotted with white, wings and tail black; thirteen inches long; lives chiefly in pine forests; collects and feeds on insects, berries, and nuts. Rarely found in England; frequently in Germany and other parts of Europe.

Of the *Pica*, Magpie, *Mag*, *Madge*, *Pie*, or *Hagister*, there are four varieties:—variegated black and white,—variegated sooty black and white,—body longitudinally streaked with black and white,—and totally white. It is eighteen inches long, a considerable portion of which is tail. Inhabits Europe and North America; well known in this country; feeds on worms, &c.; builds in trees or thorn bushes; covers over its nest with thorns, leaving commonly two entrances; eggs five, greenish, with dusky spots. May be easily tamed, and taught to imitate the human voice; when tamed, thievish, and hides almost every thing which it carries away; will carry away many things for which it cannot have any possible use. Its notes are a kind of chattering. For a further account of this bird's nest, see the Introduction.

While other birds join'd in a jig or a reel,
The Goatsucker humm'd with his loud spinning
wheel.*

Gisborne thus describes this bird :

> "From bough to bough the restless magpie roves,
> And chatters as he flies."
>
> Walks in a Forest.—*Spring.*

The magpie is not, I believe, generally considered a very pugnacious bird; upon some occasions, however, it will exert its energies: my friend, the Poet Laureate, informs me, that since his residence in Cumberland, he saw in that part of the country three magpies give battle to a *Hawk*, (the *Falco Tinnunculus*, I presume,) and beat him.

The *Graculus*, Red Legged Crow, *Cornish-daw*, *Cornwall-kee*, *Killigrew*, or *Cornish Chough*, inhabits the Alps, Norway, England, Egypt, and Persia; it is violet-blackish; bill and legs red; sixteen inches long; it is restless, clamorous, voracious, thievish, and gregarious; builds on rocks; feeds on juniper berries, and insects. It is pleased with glitter, and is, it is said, apt to catch up bits of lighted sticks, by which mischief is sometimes produced; eggs four or five, spotted with yellow.

The whole of this genus of birds have been commonly considered as mischievous and destructive; and, too often, writers on natural history have echoed the vulgar opinion. But they are, I think, beyond question, a very useful tribe, the mischiefs which they do being very much outweighed by the good which they produce in the destruction of worms, slugs, &c. so injurious to the fruits of the earth.

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* See the description of the Goat-suckers in Part II.

The BULFINCH, the REDWING, and OWLS too
were there;
And some SWALLOWS,(9) that live almost ever in air;

(9) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) SWALLOW, MARTIN, SWIFT.

The *genus* HIRUNDO, (of *Linn.*) to which the COMMON SWALLOW belongs, consists of more than sixty species, dispersed over the four quarters of the globe, a few of which forming the tribe of *Swifts,* have the four toes all placed forwards; the rest three before, and one behind. Of all the feathered tribe the swallow is most upon the wing, flight appearing its natural and almost necessary attitude; in this state, it feeds and bathes itself, and, sometimes, procreates and nourishes its young. The following are the chief:

The *Rustica,* SWALLOW, CHIMNEY, or COMMON SWALLOW, has the front and chin chesnut, the tail feathers, except the two middle ones, with a white spot; a variety with the body entirely white; six inches long. Builds in chimneys; sometimes beneath the roofs of out-houses, &c.; lays from four to six white eggs, speckled with red. Arrives in this country in April, leaves it in general at the end of September; seen sometimes late in October. When it flies low, is said to presage a storm, in consequence of its food, flies, not ascending high in the atmosphere at such times.

The notes of the swallow are aptly designated by the term "twittering;" they can hardly be called a song, although consisting of several sounds by no means disagreeable.

GRAY has immortalized this bird by one expressive line, in his *Elegy written in a Country Church Yard;*

"The *swallow,* twittering from the straw-built shed:"

and DRAYTON, its mode of feeding, in another;

"The swift-wing'd *swallow* feeding as it flies."

Noah's Ark.

See more concerning this bird and its nest in the Introduction.

Yet at their first advent, on warm fanning breeze,
They repose a long time on the summits of trees:

The *Esculenta*, or Esculent Swallow, inhabits China and the Islands of the Indian Ocean; it is only two inches and a quarter long; blackish; beneath white; all the tail feathers with a white spot; builds in caverns of rocks; nest made of a gelatinous substance, said to be obtained from marine plants, but, most probably, a secretion from some gland in the bird itself; it is eaten by the Asiatics as a luxury. Its chief ingredient is doubtless *gelatine*. See the Introduction.

The *Urbica*, Martin, *House-Martin*, *Martlet*, *Martinet*, is bluish black, beneath white, tail feathers without spots; a variety with quill and tail feathers tipt with white; five and a half inches long; builds under the eaves of houses; the outside of its nest like the common swallow, of clay; eggs white; inhabits Europe and North America; migrates like the swallow. See the Introduction.

The *Apus*, Swift, *Black-Martin*, *Skir-Devil*, or *Skeer-Devil*,* is blackish, chin white; eight inches long; feet so small that it rises from the ground, and walks with difficulty; is mostly on the wing, and rests by clinging to some wall; makes a harsh disagreeable screaming; builds chiefly in towers and other lofty edifices. Arrives later than the common swallow. Retires from England early in autumn.

The *Rufa* inhabits Cayenne, is five and a half inches long; affixes its nest, which is sometimes a foot and a half long, to beams. The *Purpurea*, or Purple Swallow, is entirely violet, female brown; inhabits Carolina and Virginia, where it is esteemed for its use as a warning to poultry of the approach of birds of prey, which it becomes by attacking them furiously. The *Cayennensis*, or White Collared Swift, is blackish

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* For the meaning of the term *skir*, see my *Observations on the Somerset Dialect*, article *To Skeer*.

There silent they sit, scarce one twittering note,
Is heard to distend the sweet fissirosts' throat.
But the Martins, in fear of a cold April day,
Deferred their approach till the season of May;
While the Swifts, whose loud shrieks make the
welkin oft ring,
Chose a day still more distant to welcome the spring.

violet; five and a quarter inches long; nest long, conic, chiefly of the down of dog's bane, curiously woven together with a division in the middle. Inhabits Cayenne.

The *Riparia,* Sand Martin, *Shore-bird,* or *Bank Martin,* is the smallest of the British Swallows, being in length only four inches and three quarters; the upper parts of its plumage are a mouse-coloured brown; beneath white, except across the breast, which is brown. Frequents rivers, and makes its nest in the banks, but is most commonly found in sand-pits, where it easily makes its nest in horizontal holes two or three feet deep. May be seen, during the summer, in the sand-banks at the lime-kilns near the foot of Blackheath-hill. It sometimes builds in old walls; and, occasionally, it is said, in hollow trees. Eggs five, white. Habits in other respects similar to the House Martin. Found in most parts of Europe, and also in America, where it is called *Ground Martin.*

The *Pelasgica,* called by Wilson, Chimney Swallow, is found in the United States of America, but it is there, as the swallow of this country, a migratory bird, arriving in Pennsylvania late in April or early in May: it builds in chimneys, but, in the woods, in hollow trees; nest formed of very small twigs, fastened together with a strong adhesive glue or gum, secreted by two glands, one on each side of the hind head, and mixes with the saliva; eggs four, white; young fed during the night. This bird is four and a half inches long, and twelve in extent; colour a deep sooty brown; it is supposed to winter in Honduras.

There were WOODCOCKS, (10) and SNIPES, both
GRALLATORS of fame;
Now distinguished, ah me! in our annals as *Game;*

(10) **ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) WOODCOCK, SNIPE, CURLEW, GODWIT, GREEN-SHANK, &c.**

The *genus* SCOLOPAX, (*Linn.*) to which the WOODCOCK, *Scolopax Rusticola,* belongs, consists of fifty-six or more species, of which fifteen are common to this country. The chief characteristics of this genus are the bill, more than an inch and half long, slender, straight, weak. Nostrils linear, lodged in a furrow; tongue slender, pointed; toes divided to their origin, or slightly connected; back toe small. The chief of these are the following:

The *Rusticola,* or WOODCOCK, is fifteen inches long; bill three inches, straight and reddish at the base; forehead cinereous, the rest of the upper part of the body a mixture of ferruginous black and grey disposed in bars; beneath yellowish white, with dusky streaks. Flesh and intestines good. Five or six varieties, with white or pale straw-coloured body, spotted or otherwise diversified. In the summer they retreat in France to the loftier mountains, and from England towards the mountainous regions of Norway and Sweden; some, it is said, to America; but a few remain in this country the whole year, and, of course, breed here. They are found as far south as Smyrna, Aleppo, and Barbary, and as far East as Japan. They are also found in Canada and Cape Breton.

This bird is dressed for being eaten without having its intestines taken out.

What ground there may be for the *saying* I do not know, but PHILIPS, in his *Cyder,* has the following lines on the woodcock:

> "The *woodcock's* early visit and abode
> Of long continuance in our temperate clime
> Foretell a liberal harvest:"

There were CURLEWS, by long bills and wading well
known;
And the CROW, who to feasting on carrion is prone.

Unless it be that as its long continuance here is indicative of a severe winter, and as long frost renders, most probably, the earth more fruitful.

The *Gallinago*, or COMMON SNIPE, *Snipe*, or *Snite*, has a straight bill three inches, body nearly twelve inches long; the general appearance of the body a variegated brown; beneath whitish. It migrates partly, and partly breeds in England during the summer. Eggs four or five, olivaceous, spotted with rufous-brown. Flesh excellent, and dressed in the same manner as the woodcock, without taking out the intestines. Found in almost every part of the world.

"The *snipe* flies screaming from the marshy verge,
And towers in airy circles o'er the wood,
Still heard at intervals; and oft returns
And stoops as bent to alight; then wheels aloft
With sudden fear, and screams and stoops again,
Her favourite glade reluctant to forsake."
GISBORNE, *Walks in a Forest,—Winter.*

Although the respectable authority of GISBORNE leaves us no reason to doubt the accuracy of the above description, yet the motions of the snipe, when disturbed, in the *marshy districts* of Somersetshire, are not in exact accordance with it; the snipe there is usually found in ditches or drains, and, when disturbed, it rises screaming, and generally moves in a rectilinear or slightly curved direction, so as to be readily shot at on the wing: I have not observed in it a disposition to return to the spot whence it arose. Snipes are not often seen before they rise: their motions are of the most active kind.

The *Major*, or GREAT SNIPE, weighs about eight ounces, and is sixteen inches long; bill four inches; and similar to that

There were, too, some Godwits, Greenshanks,
and Tomtits,
The last, though small birds, are accounted great wits.

of the woodcock; upper parts of the body similar to the common snipe. This bird is rarely met with in England. Flesh good.

The *Gallinula*, Jack Snipe, *Gid*, or *Jud Cock*, is eight inches and a half long; bill about two inches; body variegated. Inhabits this country, Europe, Asia, and America; migrates, none remaining in this country during the breeding season.

The *Limosa*, Jadreka Snipe, *Lesser Godwit*, or *Stone Plover* is about seventeen inches long; bill four inches. Rarely seen in England. Found in Iceland, and the northern parts of Europe.

The *Totanus*, Spotted-Snipe, or *Spotted Redshank*, is about the size of the greenshank; head pale ash-colour, with oblong streaks of black; back dusky, varied with triangular spots; wing coverts similarly spotted; beneath white. Found, though rarely, in England.

The *Œgocephala*, Godwit, *Common Godwit*, *Grey Godwit*, *Yarwhelp*, *Yarwip*, or *Sea Woodcock*, weighs from seven to twelve ounces; length about fifteen inches; bill long, from three inches and a quarter to upwards of four inches. Head, neck, and upper parts a rusty brown; but there is considerable variety both in the plumage and the size of this species. Migrates from one part of the island to another: by some naturalists said to leave England in the Spring and to return in September; but *Colonel Montagu* informs us that it continues here the whole year, migrating from one part of the country to another. These birds are often taken in Lincolnshire, and fattened for the London market.

The *Cantabrigiensis* or Cambridge Godwit is larger than the common Red Shank; it has been shot near Cambridge, but is a very scarce bird. The *Canescens* or Cinereous Godwit is

The Whimbrel, grallator with bill arch'd and long,
Was also seen lifting his head 'midst the throng.

about the size of the Green Shank; it has been killed in Lincolnshire.

The *Phæopus*, Whimbrel, *Curlew-knot*, *Curlew-Jack*, *Half-Curlew*, *Stone-Curlew*, has an arched bill about three inches long; the body is brownish; length eighteen inches. This bird has all the manners of the Curlew. Migrates, arriving in this country in August, and continuing through the winter. Inhabits Europe and America.

The *Glottis*, Green-Shank, *Green-Legged Horseman*, or *Greater Plover*, has the bill about two inches and a half long; legs greenish and very long; inhabits Europe, Africa, and America. Length fourteen inches. Migrates; seen in small flocks on our coasts in winter, and in fens and marshes contiguous to the sea. Breeds in Sweden, Russia, and Siberia. It has also been seen in Africa and America.

The *Arquata*, Common Curlew, *Curlew* or *Wheap*, varies much in size, weighing from twenty to upwards of thirty ounces; length of the largest about twenty-five inches. The bill is from six to seven inches long, dusky black; wings blackish, with snowy spots; body above, and breast, with dusky brown spots; chin, rump, and beneath, white; legs long, bluish; feeds on worms and marsh insects, and frequents also the sea-shore. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa, and common in winter on the sea-coasts of this country; in summer they retire to the mountains, where they pair and breed; they make no nest, but deposit their eggs amongst heath, rushes, or long grass; generally four in number, pale olive, spotted with brown; flesh by some thought good, but often rank and fishy. Another variety, diversified with rufous and black, found in North America.

The common notes of this bird are *hoë, hoë, hoë;* it utters also *corlew* occasionally, whence its name. Whether Miss Williams be justified in calling the sounds which this bird utters a

The **WOODPECKER** (11) pleas'd left his "hollow
beech tree;"
In the crowd he appear'd, join'd by rapture and glee.

"melancholy wail," which she does in a Sonnet that has many admirers, may be questioned:

> "Soothed by the murmurs of the sea-beat shore,
> His dun-grey plumage floating to the gale,
> The **CURLEW** blends his melancholy wail
> With those hoarse sounds the rushing waters pour."

This lady, following our Dictionaries and Poets, accents *Cur'lew* on the first syllable; it is however pronounced very often, I believe almost always, in the west of England with the accent on the last, *Curlew'*: I have in the text, much against my inclination, followed the printed custom.

The *Pigmea* or **PIGMY CURLEW** is about the size of a Lark; weighs scarcely two ounces; it is a very rare bird; one is said to have been killed in Holland, another in Kent.

The **CURLEW** has been arranged as a distinct genus by Dr. Latham, under the term **NUMENIUS**, with fifteen species.

(11) ORDER PICÆ, (*Linn.*) WOODPECKER, THE GREAT BLACK, THE GREEN, THE GOLDEN-WINGED, THE IVORY-BILLED, &C.

The Genus **PICUS** or **WOODPECKER**, (*Linn.*) comprises above ninety species, five of which are common to this country. The tribe are distinguished by a straight angular bill, wedged at the tip; nostrils covered with reflected bristles; tongue much longer than the bill, round, worm-shaped, bony, missile, daggered, beset at the point with bristles, bent back; tail feathers ten, stiff, sharp-pointed; feet scansile. The following are the chief of this very curious genus, which are principally inhabitants of America.

Hast thou e'er, when alone, amidst woodlands remote,
In the forest far distant from dwellings of men,—
In the grove's gloomy umbrage,—the mountain's
deep glen,—
When solemnity, solitude, silence, excite
A feeling of awe that no pen may indite,
Been startled by some bird's appalling loud note?

The *Martius*, or **Great Black Woodpecker** is black except the crown of the head, which is vermilion; size of a jackdaw; length seventeen inches; builds a large and deep nest in some tree, which it excavates for the purpose; eggs two or three, white. This bird is very scarce in England; it is said however to have been met with in Devonshire. It is found in other parts of Europe generally, and also in Chili. It chiefly resides among poplar trees, feeding on bees and ants. In winter this bird disappears. In the female the hind head only is red. These birds strike with such force against the trees which they excavate, that the noise is heard as far as a wood-cutter's hatchet. The hole which they make in the tree is generally round, and of course sufficiently large to admit their bodies. It appears that their reasons for thus scooping out trees are two; the first for the purpose of obtaining ants and insects which secrete themselves in the soft or rotten wood, and afterwards for a nest.

The *Viridis*, **Green Woodpecker**, *Woodspite*, *Rain-bird* or *Rain-fowl*, *High-hoe*, *Hew-hole*, *Awl-bird*, *Yapping-ale*, *Yaffle* or *Yaffler*, *Woodwall* or *Poppinjay*, is thirteen inches long; the general colour of this bird is green; the crown is crimson; the rump is yellow, beneath a very pale yellowish green; the bill is two, the tongue six, inches long. Another variety with the upper part of the head and spots beneath the ears deep red. The first variety is found in Europe and our own country; the se-

That note is the Woodpecker's,—there may'st thou see
The harsh screaming scansor on many a tree.

cond, Mexico. Eggs five or six, greenish, spotted with black, which it lays in a hole scooped out in a decaying tree; the elm, the asp, or the ash, is usually chosen, rarely if ever the oak for such a purpose. A modern poet, Mr. Moore, has immortalized this bird in a beautiful song called the *Woodpecker;* it is well known, but the first stanza it may be here permitted me to quote :

"I knew by the smoke that so gracefully curl'd
  Above the green elms that a cottage was near;
And I said, if there's peace to be found in the world,
  A heart that was humble might hope for it here.
Every leaf was at rest, and I heard not a sound,
But the Woodpecker tapping the hollow beech tree."

The note of this bird is sufficiently described in the text.

The *Principalis,* White-billed Woodpecker, or *Ivory-billed Woodpecker,* (supposed to be the largest of the tribe,) is black, crest scarlet, bill prodigiously strong, elegantly fluted, and as white as ivory ; cap in the female not coloured ; twenty inches long. Feeds on the worms found in rotten trees; stomach an oblong pouch, not muscular like the gizzards of granivorous birds. Inhabits America from New Jersey to Brazil; habits like the last species. This bird from the great quantity of chips which it makes is called, by the Spaniards, the *Carpenter's bird.*

The *Erythrocephalus* or Red-headed Woodpecker has the head wholly red, wings and tail black, belly white ; female head brown ; nine and a half inches long ; habits like the last. Found in North America ; in the winter, grows tame, and enters houses like the red-breast ; migrates ; feeds on acorns, fruits, and Indian corn.

There came, too, the STARE (12), made immortal by
STERNE,
In a lesson which young and which old ought to learn:

The *Auratus*, GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER or *Flicker*, inhabits almost all North America, and is very variegated in its plumage; eleven inches long; migrates; often found in Pennsylvania the whole winter; feeds on worms, insects, and occasionally on berries and grass.

The *Pubescens*, or DOWNY WOODPECKER has the back longitudinally downy; outer tail feathers white, with four black spots; hind head in the male red; size of a sparrow; inhabits North America in vast flocks; is bold, and very injurious to orchards, making one hole close to another in a horizontal line, till it has completed a circle of holes all round the tree.

The following may be also mentioned as found in this country; but, as their habits are very similar to the Green Woodpecker, they require no particular notice. The *Villosus* or HAIRY WOODPECKER is nearly nine inches long; above black, beneath white; found in the north of England, common in America. The *Major* or GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER is nine inches long; the predominating colours of this bird are black and white; eggs five, white. Mr. SWEET informs me that he had one of this species domesticated, and that it destroyed and ate small birds. The *Minor* or LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER is only five inches and a half long; eggs five, white. This bird is called in Gloucestershire *Hickwall* and *Crank-bird*.

(12) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) STARLING, WATER OUZEL, &c.

The genus STURNUS, (*Linn.*) to which the STARE, *Sturnus Vulgaris*, belongs, comprehends nearly forty species, scattered over the globe, two only common to our own country.

O YE who have POWER,—who presume that YOUR WILL
Is the measure that every WEAK being must fill,

The characters of the tribe are a subulate, angular, depressed, bluntish bill; upper mandible entire, somewhat open at the edges; nostrils surrounded with a prominent rim; tongue notched, pointed. The following are the chief.

The *Vulgaris*, STARE, STARLING, *Shepster*, *Chepster*, or *Chep-Starling*, has the bill yellow, body black with white dots; the colours however vary; sometimes they are a beautiful green and purple, and sometimes white, and, it is said, occasionally black; nine inches long. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and America, and common to our own country. Exceedingly gregarious, associating during the winter months in well-arranged battalions, and sometimes with other birds not of their own tribe. The males are very pugnacious, often fighting during the pairing season for the females with much rancour, the females themselves being the while passive spectators. Their docility and the beauty of their plumage have rendered them great favourites. Their natural notes are a shrill whistle and a chattering; but they may be taught to imitate the human voice, and sing song-tunes. STERNE has immortalized this bird in his *Sentimental Journey:*—"The bird flew to the place where I was attempting his deliverance, and, thrusting his head through the trellis, pressed his head against it, as if impatient.—I fear, poor creature, said I, I cannot set thee at liberty.—'No,' said the starling, 'I can't get out,—I can't get out.' Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, Slavery, said I,—still thou art a bitter draught!"—Page 101, Edit. Lond. 1804.

They feed on insects and worms; but their flesh is so bitter as to be scarcely eatable. They build in ruinous edifices or the cliff of a rock, and sometimes in a hollow tree, and sometimes in the deserted nest of another bird. Eggs four or five, of a pale

Behold the *naive* picture, in tints strong and true,
And think not that birds were made only for YOU ;
For YOU only to SING, for YOU only to DIE ;
O think not that thus could e'er act the MOST HIGH !
Yes, SLAVERY ! hath Nature, in wisdom, decreed
That who drinks of thy cup finds it bitter indeed ;
All uncorrupt tastes will thy chalice refuse ;
And it dash from her lips will indignant the MUSE.

green or bluish cast. This species is seen in this country throughout the year; but it is suspected that some of the tribe migrate during the summer months; I have never seen their nests in Somersetshire. It appears, however, that a great number of these birds have, for several years past, built their nests in the apertures under the lead on the top of *Canonbury-tower* at *Islington.*[*]

The *Cinclus*, WATER-OUZEL, *Crake*, *Water-Crake*, *Water Crow* or *Piet*, is above black, breast and chin white, belly ferruginous; seven and a quarter inches long; solitary; breeds in the holes of banks; inhabits Europe and Northern Persia, and found also in this country. Although the feet of this bird are not formed for diving, it is yet a most singular circumstance that it pursues its prey under water, living chiefly on small fish and aquatic insects. It sings prettily in the spring.

The *Capensis* or CAPE STARLING is blackish, beneath and sides of the head white; size of the *vulgaris;* inhabits the Cape of Good Hope. The *Ludovicianus* or LOUISINE STARLING is above brownish grey, beneath yellow; in size and habits similar to the common starling. Inhabits, in vast flocks, the interior regions of North America.

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[*] See Nelson's History of Islington, 2d edit. p. 237.

TO FREEDOM.

BUT approach! thou delight of the children of men!
Not less than of BIRDS, both of grove and of glen,
Fair FREEDOM! approach! not, as often of yore,
In the dark robes of terror, and hands stain'd with gore;
O come, in thy gentleness silvery bright,
And diffuse o'er the world thy benevolent light;
Take the VIRTUES,—the maidens of PEACE, by the hand;
Let PERSUASION, not FORCE, be thy word of command;
Bring with thee affectionate Feeling and Love,
So that those who contemn be constrain'd to approve;
Let KNOWLEDGE thy constant attendant e'er be,
And MAN, become WISE, will then only be FREE.
The BIRDS, too, shall hail thee,—around thee shall throng,—
In one loud bursting shout of symphonious song.

WATER-OUZELS, too, came, and the oft-calling QUAIL,
Pugnacious,—TEALS many, but not a LAND-RAIL;
While the WIDGEONS and POCHARDS, and rich GOLDEN-EYE,
'Midst the BEAN-GEESE and BRENT-GEESE were seen oft to fly.
Came the EIDER-DUCK also from isles of the west,
Where she dwells most secure in her soft *downy* nest.

She to commerce, to luxury, ministers food;
And to SLOTH lends her couches, nor wholesome nor
good:
Oh, when shall conviction, the truth flash on WEALTH,
That no road yclept *Royal* can lead unto HEALTH;
That LABOUR can only such happiness yield,
And such, too, which chiefly abounds in the field?

The active KING-FISHERS (13) on willows were seen,
In colours most splendid, of purple and green.

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(13) **ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) KING-FISHER, the COMMON, the SPLENDID, the PURPLE, &c.**

The genus ALCEDO, (*Linn.*) to which the *Common King-fisher*, *Alcedo ispida* belongs, consists of about sixty species, all, except the first named, inhabiting the warmer regions of the globe. The characteristics of the tribe are a triangular thick, straight, long-pointed bill; tongue fleshy, very short, flat pointed; feet, in most, gressorial. It chiefly frequents rivers, and lives on fishes, which it catches with curious dexterity; swallows its prey whole, but brings up the undigested parts; though short winged, it flies with great swiftness; its predominant colour is blue of different shades. The following are the chief:

The *Ispida*, COMMON KING-FISHER or *Martin-fisher*, the *Halcyon* of the poets, is in length seven inches, weight one ounce and a half; bill black tinged with orange, two inches long. The head and body beautifully tinged with green and blue, interspersed with yellow and orange; the throat buff colour, beneath a dull orange. Found in this country most frequently about clear running streams, in the banks of which it generally takes possession of a rat's hole to deposit its eggs, which are white, seven in number, and transparent. Found also in the marshy districts of Somersetshire, and throughout

The Plover ([14]), the Golden, his whistle loud blew;
And the Dotterel and Sanderling pass'd in review.

Europe, Asia, and Africa. **Drayton** has well characterized this bird:

> " Long leav'd willow, on whose bending spray
> The py'd *King's-fisher*, having got his prey,
> Sate with the small breath of the waters shaken,
> Till he devour'd the fish that he had taken."
>
> *Man in the Moon.*

The Halcyon was feigned by the poets to breed in the sea, and that there was always a calm during her incubation; hence the term *halcyon* has been used poetically to imply placidity, quiet:

> " As firm as the rock, and as calm as the flood,
> Where the peace loving *halcyon* deposits her brood."
>
> Cooper.

This bird is rarely, if ever, found near the habitations of man; it prefers remote and solitary places for its abode.

The *Formosa* or Splendid King-fisher is the most beautiful of the genus, with tail short, body yellowish green; shoulders, throat, and rump, yellow; wings and crown blue; bill yellowish horn-colour; head with a bright yellow stripe on each side; smaller wing coverts edged with yellow; legs reddish brown; a native of South America.

The *Purpurea*, or Purple King-fisher;—the *Alcyon*, or Belted King-fisher, of which there are four varieties;—the *Chlorocephala*, or Green-headed King-fisher;—and the *Cristata*, or Crested King-fisher, of which there are two varieties, are all that we can notice.

([14]) Order, Grallæ, (*Linn.*) Plover, Dotterel, Sanderling, &c.

The genus Charadrius, (*Linn.*) or Plover, comprehends above forty species, chiefly inhabitants of Europe and America, of which some are gregarious, some solitary. They have a roundish

There were BURROW-DUCKS swimming and diving
along;
The SKYLARKS aloft loud were chanting their song;

obtuse straight bill; nostrils linear; feet three toed, all placed forwards, formed for running. The following are the chief:

The *Hiaticula*, RINGED-PLOVER, *Sea-Lark*, or *Dulwilly*, weighs about two ounces; length between seven and eight inches; the bill, upper half orange, lower black; the breast is black, front blackish with a white band; crown brown; legs yellow. It makes no nest, but lays four eggs in a small cavity in the sand, just above high-water mark. Found plentifully in most parts of the world; frequents our shores in summer, and retires to more sheltered places in the winter, at which time it is gregarious; but does not leave the country, as has been commonly supposed. A variety found in Spain of a grey colour; another in America of an ash-grey.

The *Morinellus*, or DOTTEREL, weighs about four or five ounces; is in length nearly ten inches; the breast is ferruginous; band over the eyes and line on the breast white; legs black; another variety with considerable variation in its colours. Inhabits Europe; migrates to the north in summer to breed. Is seen on our downs, heaths, and moors, from April to June, and again in September and October. It is a stupid bird, and easily shot.

The *Pluvialis*, GOLDEN-PLOVER, *Green-Plover, Grey-Plover, Whistling-Plover*, weighs between seven and eight ounces; length ten inches and a half; bill one inch. Body blackish, spotted with yellowish green; beneath white; legs black. Inhabits almost every where in England during the winter on heaths and moors, and is a common object of sport; it also frequents the sea coasts. Retires to the mountains and uncultivated districts to breed; eggs four, size of a lapwing's, colour dirty white, blotched with purple. A variety in St. Domingo

While the GOLDFINCHES, chirping and flitting about,
Were delighted in picking the thistle seed out.
The PURS from the sea rose like clouds in the air;
GREEN LINNETS(15), PINE-GROSBEAKS, and CROSSBILLS were there.

having the body varied with yellowish, beneath white. Flesh good.

> " With shrilly pipe, from headland or from cape,
> Emerge the line of *plovers* o'er the sands
> Fast sweeping."
>
> △ *Blackwood's Mag. March* 1822.

The *Himatopus*, LONG-LEGGED PLOVER, or *Long-legs*, is said to be the longest legged bird in proportion to its bulk hitherto known; length from the point of the bill to the end of the tail thirteen inches, from that to the end of the toes five inches more; bill two inches and a half long; legs four inches and a half long, red; outer and middle toes connected by a membrane at the base. A rare bird in this country, but said to be plentiful in the East and West Indies, Egypt, and on the shores of the Caspian Sea. This bird is wholly white, except the wings and back as far as the rump, which are black. The foreign specimens have the crown and all the hind part of the head black.

The *Calidris*, SANDERLING, *Curwillet*, or *Tow-willy*, has the bill and legs black, rump greyish, body beneath white without spots; another variety cinereous varied with brown. Inhabits the sandy shores of Europe and America. It is found in flocks, together with the Purre, on our own shores; but whether it breeds in this country is not decidedly known.

(15) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) GROSBEAK, GREEN-LINNET, CROSSBILL, BULFINCH, &c.

The genus LOXIA, (*Linn.*) GROSBEAK, or *Crossbill*, comprehends more than one hundred and twenty species, of which the GREEN-LINNET, or *Loxia Chloris*, is one; it is distinguished by

The Hedge-Sparrow softly his song in the dell
Trill'd; the Petty-chaps louder his note was heard
swell;

a strong bill, both mandibles being convex, thick, and moveable; nostrils small, round; tongue truncate. The chief species are as follow:

The *Chloris*, **Green-Grosbeak**, *Green-Linnet*, or *Greenfinch*, is rather larger than the house-sparrow; head and back yellowish green, edges of the feathers greyish; the rump and breast more yellow. The plumage of the female much less vivid, inclining to brown. Inhabits England, Europe generally, and Kamtschatka; gregarious in winter; builds a neat nest, generally in some bush; eggs five or six, whitish with blood-coloured spots. Feeds chiefly on grain and seeds. Song trifling, but in confinement it becomes tame and docile, and will catch the note of other birds.

The *Coccothraustes*, **Grosbeak**, *Hawfinch*, or *Cherryfinch*, is of a chesnut ash-colour; wings with a white line; about six inches long; varies in its plumage. Inhabits Europe; it visits England in the autumn, and continues here till April. Feeds on hawthorn-berries, breaking the stones of that fruit with ease to obtain the kernel. It sometimes sings here in warm winter days. It breeds in France; eggs bluish green spotted with brown.

The *Enucleator*, **Pine-Grosbeak**, or *Greatest-Bulfinch*, is larger than the last; head, neck, breast, and rump, crimson; the back and lesser coverts of the wings black, edged with reddish, beneath ash colour. Female brown tinged with green. Found in the northern parts of the kingdom in the pine forests, on the seeds of which it feeds, where also it is supposed it breeds. Found also in North America, Hudson's Bay, Siberia, and northern Europe. Eggs four, white.

The *Curvirostra*, **Crossbill**, or *Sheld-apple*, is the most remarkable of the tribe, six inches and a half long. Both man-

The Hawfinch, excited by gales of the spring,
His gratulant notes was heard also to sing.

dibles of the bill are hooked and turned different ways, so that they do not meet at the point. The plumage of the male varies from a beautiful red to orange colour on the head, neck, breast, back, and rump; wing coverts rufous brown. Females generally a dull olive green on the parts where the male is red. It does not breed in this country, but is often found in our fir plantations from June to the end of the year. They inhabit permanently Germany, Switzerland, the Alps, and Pyrenees; often migratory in those countries. They build on the tops of pine trees; eggs whitish, with red spots. Feeds on the seeds of the pine, apples, &c. Notwithstanding Buffon considered the formation of the bill of this bird as an "*erreur de la nature*," subsequent observation has demonstrated that it is peculiarly suited to the food on which it feeds, namely, the cones of the pine. In truth the more the structure and habits of birds are examined, the more they will be found exactly "fitted to their state and place."

The *Cardinalis*, or **Cardinal-Grosbeak**, is crested, red. Inhabits North America; nearly eight inches long; sings very finely in spring and summer; feeds on grain and Indian corn, which it hoards up.

The *Sulphurata*, or **Brimstone-Grosbeak**, is olive brown; throat and belly pale yellow. Inhabits in flocks the Cape of Good Hope; five inches and three quarters long; builds a pendulous nest.

The *Philippina*, or **Philippine-Grosbeak**, is brown, beneath yellowish white. Another variety with tail and quill feathers greenish brown, edged with yellow. The female reddish below. The first inhabits the Philippine islands, the second Abyssinia; five and a half inches long; constructs a curious nest with the long fibres of plants or dried grass, and suspends it by a cord nearly half an ell long from the end of a slender

While the LAPWING, repeating his noisy PEE-WIT,
Flew around in a flutter, perchance of deceit.

branch of some tree, that it may be inaccessible to snakes and other hostile animals; the interior, it is said, consists of three divisions; the first is occupied by the male, the second by the female, the third by the young. In the first apartment, where the male keeps watch while the female is hatching, a little clay is placed on one side, and on the top of this a glowworm, which affords its inhabitants light in the night-time! The nest of the second variety is spiral, with an opening on one side, which is always turned from the rainy quarter. This account of the nest of this bird is, I confess, a little bordering on the improbable: I have no means of ascertaining its correctness. Lord Valencia saw hundreds of the nests of this bird on a tamarind tree in the East Indies; they were like a long cylinder, swelling out in a globose form in the middle, and fastened to the extreme branches of the tree.

The *Abyssinica*, or ABYSSINIAN-GROSBEAK, is yellowish; the crown, temples, throat, and breast black; inhabits Abyssinia; size of the hawfinch; nest pyramidal, pendent, with an opening on one side, and divided in the middle by a partition.

The *Pensilis*, or PENSILE-GROSBEAK, is green; head and throat yellow; belly grey; size of a house sparrow; inhabits Madagascar; nest pensile, shaped like a bag, with an opening beneath, on one side of which is the true nest; does not choose a new situation every year, but fastens a new nest to the end of the last, often having a chain of five nests in succession; builds in large societies; brings three at each hatching.

The *Socia*, or SOCIABLE-GROSBEAK, is rufous-brown, beneath yellowish; inhabits the Cape of Good Hope; five and a half inches long; lives together in vast tribes from eight hundred to a thousand, at times, under one common roof, containing their several nests, which are built on a large species of the mimosa.

For an account of the *Pyrrhula*, BULFINCH, see Note (48).

In fair robes, finely ting'd with ash-grey, o'er the trees,
Flew the GULLS (16) from the sea on a light zephyr breeze.

(16) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) GULL, KITTIWAKE, TARROCK, &c.

The *genus* LARUS, (*Linn.*) or GULL, consists of nearly thirty species; they are spread almost universally over the globe, accommodating themselves to the winters of the arctic regions, and to the heat of the torrid zone. They have a straight bill, a little hooked at the tip; a light body supported by large wings; from the feathery buoyancy of which they, it is said, never dive; toes before webbed, back toe small: the following are the chief:

The *Canus*, GULL, COMMON-GULL, *Sea-Gull*, *White-Web-footed-Gull*, *Sea-Mall*, *Sea-Mew*, or *Sea-Maw*,* is seventeen inches long, and weighs fifteen ounces; the head, neck, tail, and under parts of the body white; back, scapulars, and wing coverts ash-colour; bill yellow. Inhabits Europe and America. The preceding is the description of the bird maturely feathered; but the first year it is more or less mottled all over with brown and white; it varies again in the second year; and it is probable that it does not arrive at maturity till the third or fourth year. It is seen in winter at a considerable distance from the coast, and will follow the plough for the *larvæ* of the cockchafer, *Scarabæus Melolontha*. It is, however, decidedly a sea-bird, and feeds on fish and marine worms; breeds on the ledges of rocks, close to the sea-shore; eggs two or three, dull olive, blotched with dusky, size of a small hen's egg.

A beautiful song of LORD BYRON's in the first canto of

---

* "The greedy *Sea-Maw* fishing for the fly."
DRAYTON's *Man in the Moon.*

The Fuscus was there, long the fisherman's guide;
And he, the Great Black-back'd, of *Steep Holmes*
the pride.

Childe Harold will immortalize this bird as the *Sea-Mew*; the following is the first stanza of it:

"Adieu, adieu! my native shore
Fades o'er the waters blue;
The night winds sigh, the breakers roar,
And shrieks the wild *sea-mew*.
Yon sun that sets upon the sea,
We follow in his flight;
Farewell awhile to him and thee,
My native land!—good night!"

The *Marinus*, **Great Black-backed Gull**, *Great Black and White Gull*, or *Cobb*, weighs between four and five pounds; breadth five feet nine inches; colour white; back and wing coverts dusky black. Inhabits Europe and America. Breeds on the Steep-Holmes in the Bristol Channel; eggs blackish grey, with dark purple spots. Feeds on fishes and young birds.

It used some years since to be, and probably now is, a common excursion in the summer season among the fishermen resident near the mouth of the Parret, to row in their flat-bottomed boats to the Steep-Holmes, in quest of gulls' eggs: it was generally considered a source of pleasure rather than of profit. The adventure is a hazardous one, and can only be safely accomplished in calm weather.

The *Fuscus*, or **Herring-Gull**, is white; back brown; twenty-three inches long; inhabits Europe, North America, and Asia; found plentifully on the shores of this country; feeds on fish, particularly herrings, to the shoals of which fishermen are directed by these birds hovering over and following them. Eggs three, whitish, spotted with black. In the two first years the young of this and the Less Black-backed Gull are so much alike, that they cannot be ascertained till the ma-

The Laughing came, too, from his home, *Scoulton*
Mere;
And that Arctic marauder who hunts without fear:

tured feathers appear on the back. See Part II. for a poetical description of the gull's and other birds' pursuit of the herring.

The *Ridibundus*, Laughing-Gull, *Black-headed Gull, Brown-headed Gull, Puit, Pewit-Gull, Black-Cap, Sea-Crow, Mire-Crow,* or *Crocker*, is whitish; head and throat black; length fifteen inches; makes a laughing noise; inhabits Europe and America, and found also in this country. It breeds at Scoulton Mere, in Norfolk, where the eggs have been collected in great numbers. The young birds leave the nest as soon as they are hatched and take to the water, as do indeed most of the young of the aquatic tribes. It is a very useful bird, following the plough for worms as regularly as the rook. Its plumage varies: in winter the head and other parts of the body, which are black in summer, become white.

The *Argentatus*, or Less Black-backed Gull, is greatly inferior in size to the Great Black-backed Gull, but rather larger than the Herring-Gull. Found frequently, and breeds, in this country. The eggs and young similar to those of the herring-gull.

The *Parasiticus*, Arctic-Gull, *Teaser*, or *Dung-Hunter*, has the body above black; beneath, temples, and front, white. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and America; common also in the Hebrides and the Orkneys, where they breed among the heath; it has been seen also in Yorkshire. Eggs two, ash-coloured spotted with black, size of a hen's. It is twenty-one inches long. Pursues smaller gulls till they have discharged what they have lately eaten, which it dexterously catches and devours before it reaches the water.

The *Rissa*, or Kittiwake, is, the first and second year, called Tarrock, not arriving at maturity till the third year, when it is about fourteen or fifteen inches long; weighs about half a

The KITTIWAKE, SKUA the huge, the BLACK-TOED,
Over hill, over dale, all triumphantly rode ;—
While the COMMON, well known as the minstrel's SEA-MEW,
Of whom BYRON sings in his feeling " Adieu,"
Soar'd aloft with wild screaming, and waving in light
His downy plum'd pinions of delicate white.
There were, too, some WARBLERS of soft plaintive note :
The RED-START—the WHEAT-EAR, and he with WHITE-THROAT ;

pound ; back whitish-hoary ; quill feathers white ; head, neck, belly, and tail snowy ; wings hoary. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and America ; found also, and breeds, in this country, but rarely in the southern parts of the island.

Besides these, many other species are sometimes found in this country ; the *Crepidatus*, or BLACK-TOED GULL ;—the *Atricilla*, or LAUGHING-GULL of MONTAGU, called also BALTNER'S GREAT ASH-COLOURED SEA-MEW ;—the *Catarractes*, SKUA GULL, or *Brown Gull*, weighs three pounds, and is two feet long ;—and the *Nævius*, or WAGEL-GULL. The WINTER-GULL, *Winter-mew*, or *Coddy Moddy*, is said to be nothing more than the common gull in the second year's plumage.

The eggs of gulls are collected and eaten in some parts of Great Britain, as well as in other countries. The flesh of most of the tribe is generally considered too rank for food. The feathers would, it is presumed, make good beds ; it seems singular that they have not been collected for such purpose : perhaps, however, they may be too oily.

" Buoyantly on high,
The *Sea Gulls* ride weaving a sportive dance,
And turning to the sun their snowy plumes."

△ *Blackwood's Mag.* 1822.

Of the WAGTAILS—the WATER—the YELLOW—the
GREY;
The first at the stream often sipp'd and away.
SAND-PIPERS (17) were many—amongst them were
seen,
The GREY, BLACK, COMMON, SPOTTED, RED, PURPLE, and GREEN.

---

(17) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) SAND-PIPER, RUFF AND REEVE, LAPWING, TURNSTONE, PHALAROPE, KNOT, PUR, &c.

The *genus* TRINGA, (*Linn.*) or SAND-PIPER, consists of above seventy species; their distinguishing characters are a straight slender bill, and exceeding one inch and a half in length; nostrils small; tongue slender; toes divided, or very slightly connected. They are found in Europe and America; a few in Asia; a great many common to this country; the following are the chief:

The *Pugnax*, or RUFF and REEVE, have the bill and legs rufous; three lateral tail feathers without spots; face with flesh-colour granulations. They are so variable in colour that two are seldom alike, but the long feathers of the neck resembling a *ruff*, sufficiently characterize the species. It is about a foot long; the *Ruffs*, or males, fight with great obstinacy for the female, or *Reeves*, whence their specific name *Pugnax*. The Reeve is less than the male; the upper parts are brown; beneath white. Eggs four, white, with rusty spots deposited in a tuft of grass. The ruff and the flesh-colour granulations of the face are only seen in the summer; both disappear in the autumn. In the young of the first year, which are called *Stags*, they are wanting. Inhabits Europe and this country; but here only in the fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, the Isle of Ely, and the marshes of Norfolk; they arrive in these districts early in spring, where they breed, and depart

With the Muscovy, Wild Ducks, the Reeve, and
the Ruff,
Mix'd the Sea-Pies, the Gambet, and many a
Chough;

the latter end of September. They are caught by nets: when fattened, they are dressed with their intestines, and their whole contents, like the woodcock.

The *Vanellus*, LAPWING, *Pewit*, *Bastard-Plover*, or *Green-Plover*, is about half a pound weight; length twelve inches; has a pendent crest; breast black; back and coverts of the wings brown-green, glossed with purple and blue. Inhabits the marshes and moist heaths of Europe. It is distinguished by the monotonous sounds of *pee-weet*, which it continually utters, and with which it flies around or near persons, so as to be sometimes, in moors, extremely annoying; this it does, it has been conjectured, to divert attention from its nest or its young. Feeds chiefly on earthworms, which it artfully obtains by beating the ground about their holes. Gregarious, except during the breeding season; and is said to migrate. Eggs four, olivaceous, blotched with black; it lays on the bare ground. The eggs are placed in a quadrangular manner, touching each other at the smaller ends: this position of the eggs is said to be common to the *Sand-piper*, *Plover*, and *Snipe* tribes. Flesh good; the eggs are considered a delicacy, and frequently brought to London for sale.

The *Gambetta*, or GAMBET, is the size of a green-shank; head, back, and breast cinereous, spotted with dull yellow; wing coverts cinereous, edged with yellow; beneath white; rarely seen in England; inhabits Europe and America.

A lapwing of Java, mentioned by Dr. Horsfield under the terms of *Vanellus tricolor*, has the notes similar to "*Terek.*" It should, perhaps, also be mentioned here, that the *Lapwing* has been arranged as a separate genus by many authors under the term VANELLUS.

Although of this island both visitors rare,
The Grey and Red Phalarope also were there.

The *Interpres*, **Turnstone**, or *Sea-Dotterel*, is about the size of a thrush; inhabits the sea-coasts of Europe and America, and found in this country in the winter, but, it is said, does not breed here. It is nine inches long; feeds on worms, turning over stones to look for them, hence its name. Eggs four, olive, spotted with black. Three other varieties: one found in Scotland and North America; two in Cayenne.

The *Lobata*, **Grey-Phalarope**, or *Great Coot-footed Tringa*, inhabits Europe, Asia, America, and rarely England; rather larger than the *Purre;* one other variety. In stormy weather gregarious on lakes. The *Hyperborea*, or **Red Phalarope**, *Cock Coot-footed Tringa*, or *Red Coot-footed Tringa*, is the size of the preceding; inhabits the North of Europe; said to breed in Hudson's Bay; rarely seen in England. The **Phalaropes** are arranged by Dr. **Latham** as a distinct genus.

The **Sand-Pipers** which are found in England are, among others, the following: the *Cinerea*, or **Ash-coloured Sand-Piper**, in length about ten inches; seen in large flocks on the coasts of South Wales; they migrate, it is said, in April. By some authors esteemed the same bird as the *Knot*, see below. The *Lincolniensis*, or **Black Sand-Piper**, is the size of a thrush. The *Fusca*, or **Brown Sand-Piper**, is the size of a *Jack-Snipe*. The *Grenovicensis*, or **Greenwich Sand-piper**, is the size of the Redshank. The *Squatarola*, *Grey-Plover*, or **Grey Sand-Piper**, is rather larger than the Golden Plover. The *Pusilla*, or **Little Sand-Piper**. The *Nigricans*, **Purple Sand-Piper**, *Sea Sand-Piper*, or *Selniger Sand-Piper*. The *Islandica*, **Red Sand-Piper**, or *Aberdeen Sand-Piper*. The *Macularia*, **Spotted Sand-Piper**, or *Spotted Tringa*. The *Glareola*, or **Wood Sand-Piper**, size of a Jack Snipe.

The *Ochropus*, or **Green Sand-Piper**, is an elegant species, ten inches long; solitary, and smells of musk; inhabits Europe

The SAND-PIPERS GREEN, and of strong musky smell,
Those elegant waders, flew over the dell.

and America; arrives in this country in September, and continues till April.

The *Hypoleucos*, COMMON SAND-PIPER, or *Summer-Snipe*, has the body cinereous, with black stripes, beneath white; inhabits Europe and America, and common to this country, which it visits in the spring, frequenting our lakes and rivers, on the borders of which it makes its nest. Seven and a half inches long; eggs four or five, dirty yellow, with pale spots. Wags the tail, and, when disturbed, makes a piping noise.

The *Canutus*, or KNOT, has the body above cinereous, beneath white; inhabits England, Europe generally, and also America; nine inches long; eggs flesh colour, with crowded orange spots; flesh delicious.

The *Cinclus*, SANDERLING, *Purre*, *Pur*, *Stint*, *Red-necked Sand-piper*, *Ox-bird*, *Ox-eye*, *Least-snipe*, or *Wagtail*, has the bill and legs black; body and rump grey and brown; a second variety with brown legs; the breast and belly white in both; inhabits England, Europe generally, and America; nearly eight inches long; flesh eatable. Frequents the mouths of our saltwater rivers in immense flocks during the winter and spring, and is generally seen in the greatest numbers at or about high water, particularly during the spring tides. They are rarely seen in the summer, retiring to some distant place to breed. Their numbers and compactness of association may be judged of by the fact that a fisherman whom I knew fired at a large body of them when on a bank surrounded with the tide, and killed one *hundred and twenty*, and *nine plovers* which were amongst them, at one shot, besides wounding, perhaps, half as many more which he could not obtain. The shots in the gun were *large* too, and, consequently, not very numerous, so that one shot must have killed several birds! See the NOTE,—*House-Sparrow's Speech*.

While the wild running WATER RAIL ([18]) just from
the fen,
Was seen 'midst the sedgy green pools of the glen.

([18]) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) RAIL, WATER-RAIL, LAND-RAIL, SPOTTED-GALLINULE, &c.

The genus RALLUS, (*Linn.*) or RAIL, consists of about thirty species, of which the WATER-RAIL, *Rallus Aquaticus*, is one. The characters of this tribe are a slender bill; nostrils small; tongue rough at the end; body much compressed; tail very short; feet four-toed, cleft. The following are most important:

The *Aquaticus*, WATER-RAIL, *Brook-Ouzel*, *Bilcock*, *Velvet-Runner*, *Runner*, *Grey-Skit*, or *Skiddy-Cock*, is twelve inches long; upper part of the body olive brown; black in the middle, the lower cinereous; wings grey, spotted with brown; tail feathers short, black; legs dusky red. Inhabits the watery places in Europe and Asia; found also in this country; lays in willow beds or among aquatic plants; eggs five or six, pale yellowish, marked all over with dusky brown spots. MONTAGU once found a nest with six eggs of spotless white; rather larger than those of a black-bird. Flies heavily, runs and swims with celerity; flesh good; feeds on worms, slugs, and insects.

The *Crex*, LAND-RAIL, *Crake-Gallinule*, *Land-Hen*, *Rail*, *Daker-Hen*, *Corn-Crake*, *Crek*, *Cracker*, *Bean-Crake*, or *Corn-Drake*, has the feathers of the body reddish brown, the belly whitish yellow; wings reddish rusty; bill and legs brown ash; inhabits redgy places of Europe and Asia; arrives in this country the latter end of April, and departing in October. Nine and a half inches long; runs swiftly along the grass; flies slowly; feeds on insects and seeds; grows very fat; flesh excellent; its note harsh, resembling the words *crek, crek;* lays on the dry grass from twelve to sixteen eggs, of a dirty white colour, with a few yellow spots. Two other varieties found in the East and West Indies. It is found most plentiful in the northern parts of this kingdom, and in Ireland.

The DIVERS (19) were many and various in hue;
Of the NORTHERN, the IMBER, BLACK-THROATED
a few;

The *Porzana*, SPOTTED GALLINULE, or *Spotted Water-Hen*, is an elegant species, about nine inches long; it migrates like the preceding; frequents the sides of small streams; flesh good. Inhabits also Europe and North America.

(19) **ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) DIVER, GREBE, GUILLEMOT, DIDAPPER, &c.**

The genus COLYMBUS, (*Linn.*) or DIVER, consists of about thirty species, including the GREBES and GUILLEMOTS. The characteristics of this tribe are a toothless bill; they walk on land with great difficulty, but swim and dive with great dexterity. The *Guillemots* with a slender bill chiefly inhabit the sea; feet three-toed, palmate; the flesh is tough, and, as well as the eggs, nauseous. The *Divers* frequent the northern lakes, have a strong bill; feet four-toed, palmate; are monogamous; fly with difficulty; and in breeding time prefer fresh water. The *Grebes* are tailless, with a strong bill; feet four-toed, pinnate; frequently found about the waters of southern Europe. They are separated from the Divers by Dr. LATHAM, and by him arranged as a distinct genus, so also are the *Guillemots*. The following are a few of the species.

The *Grylle*, BLACK-GUILLEMOT, *Greenland-Dove*, *Sea-Turtle*, or *Scraber*, has a black body; the wing coverts and secondary quills tipped with white; legs red; bill black; from thirteen to fourteen inches long. Inhabits Europe and America; frequent in Scotland and the Hebrides; rarely seen in the south of our island. Several varieties. Egg one, dirty white, blotched with rust colour; it is deposited under ground, or in a hole in some rock.

The *Troile*, FOOLISH-GUILLEMOT, *Sea-Hen*, *Scout*, *Kiddaw*, *Murre*, *Lavy*, *Willoch*, or *Tinkershire*, has a black body, breast

By tribes Hyperborean their pelts often sought,
Into robes warm and flexile are frequently wrought.

and belly snowy. Two other varieties. Inhabits Europe and America; found also on our high rocky coasts, sometimes in great abundance. Seventeen inches long. Egg one, greenish blotched with marbled dusky; two, however, are rarely alike. They do not appear to have much use of their wings, and may therefore sometimes be taken by the hand when perched on rocks. They leave the southern parts of the kingdom the latter end of August.

The *Minor*, LESSER-GUILLEMOT, *Winter-Guillemot*, or *Morrot*, is less than the preceding, being about sixteen inches long; above black, beneath white. Found frequently in the northern parts of this island.—See the conclusion of this Note.

The *Glacialis*, NORTHERN-DIVER, *Greatest Speckled-Diver*, or *Loon*, is the largest of the genus, sometimes weighing fifteen or sixteen pounds; in length nearly three feet and a half. The back, scapulars and wing coverts are black, marked with white spots in a most elegant manner; beneath white; bill black, four inches and a half long; head and neck a deep velvety black. Inhabits Iceland and Greenland; sometimes, though rarely, met with in this country.

The *Immer*, IMBER-DIVER, IMBER-GOOSE, *Ember-Goose*, *Immer*, *Great-Doucker*, or *Cobble*, is less than the preceding; length about two feet. Inhabits the Arctic Ocean; found also occasionally in this country, particularly in the north; it is also found in the north of Europe; and said to be found also on the lake of Constance, in Switzerland, where it is called *Fluder*. Its distinguishing colour is brown above, spotted with black and white; beneath white. Feeds on fish, after which it dives. Builds its nest on the water, amongst flags and reeds.

The *Arcticus*, BLACK-THROATED DIVER, *Northern-Doucker*, or *Speckled-Loon*, is two feet long; rarely found in England, but not uncommon in the north of Europe and North America. In

Many Grebes, too, were there; some well known
unto fame:
The Crested, the Dusky and Eared we may name.

some countries the skin is used for various sorts of clothing and other purposes, being warm and exceedingly tough; these qualities being common to the skins of all the genus.

The *Cristatus*, Crested-Grebe, *Greater-crested and horned Ducker*, *Grey or Ash-coloured Loon*, *Greater-Loon*, *Arsefoot*, *Tippet-Grebe*, *Cargoose*, or *Gaunt*, is about two feet long, and weighs between two and three pounds; crest dusky; above dusky brown, beneath white. Varies in its plumage. This bird is indigenous to England, breeding in the meres of Shropshire, Cheshire, and Lincolnshire; its nest large, made of aquatic plants, not attached to any thing, but floats amongst the reeds and flags penetrated by the water. Eggs four, white, size of a pigeon's. Feeds on fish, after which it dives admirably. Rarely seen on land; it is found also in various parts of northern Europe.—See the conclusion of this Note.

The *Septentrionalis*, or Red-throated Diver, inhabits the lakes of Europe; makes a clamorous noise; two feet five inches long.

The *Obscurus*, Dusky-Grebe, or *Black-and-white Dobchick*, is larger than the Little Grebe; length eleven inches. Inhabits the fens in Lincolnshire, where it breeds, and makes a nest in the same manner as the Crested Grebe; found in the winter in our inlets on the coast, particularly in Devonshire.

The *Auritus*, Eared-Grebe, or *Eared-Dobchick*, is larger than the preceding, being in length twelve inches. Inhabits the fens of Lincolnshire, where it breeds; eggs four or five, white, in a floating nest. Found also in the north of Europe, Iceland, and Siberia.

The *Cristatus*, called by some authors *Colymbus minor*, by others *Colymbus fluviatilis*, Little Grebe, *Didapper*, *Divedopper*, *Dipper*, *Dobchick*, *Dabchick*, *Small Doucker*, *Loon*, *Arse-*

Where the ocean is heard in tumultuous roar,
The Guillemots came from some bold, rocky shore.

foot, weighs between six and seven ounces; length ten inches. The general colour of this bird is a rusty black; it varies however occasionally in its plumage. It is the least and most plentiful species of the genus, being common in most lakes, slow rivers, small streams, and even fish-ponds of this country. It seldom takes wing, but dives on the least alarm, remaining under water, with its bill only above for respiration, for a long time. Nest similar to other grebes, but usually fastened to the reeds. In the spring the males emit a shrill chattering noise. This bird is found in most parts of the old continent, and also in some parts of America. See the Introduction.

Drayton has well described this bird:

> "And in a creek where waters least did stir,
> Set from the rest the nimble *Divedopper*,
> That comes and goes so quickly and so oft,
> As seems at once both under and aloft."
>
> *Man in the Moon.*

In concluding this note, I cannot avoid noticing the singular confusion which prevails among naturalists in regard to the nomenclature of this genus of birds. I have not been enabled to clear up the difficulties which beset me. I find two different species named *Colymbus cristatus* and *Colymbus minor;* these errors I have copied, nor can I explain them satisfactorily: a proof, if any proof were wanting, that a *master mind* in the science of ORNITHOLOGY is still a desideratum, and a convincing proof also of the propriety of the course which I have adopted in this poem in not admitting scientific terms into the text. Whether the *quinary* arrangement mentioned in the Introduction may ultimately dissipate these clouds in the scientific ornithological horizon, is a question still remaining to be decided.

SNOW-BUNTINGS (20) and BANTAM-COCKS made a
display;
The WOOD-CHATS and ORTOLANS perch'd on a spray.

(20) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) BUNTING, ORTOLAN, YELLOW-HAMMER, &c.

The *genus* EMBERIZA, (*Linn.*) or BUNTING, consists of above eighty species, of which the SNOW-BUNTING, *Emberiza nivalis*, and the ORTOLAN, *Emberiza hortulana*, are two. This tribe of birds is scattered over the four quarters of the globe, but chiefly found in Europe and America; several species are inhabitants of this country. They are distinguished by a conic bill, the mandibles receding from each other from the base downwards; the lower sides narrowed in, the upper with a hard knob. The following are the chief.

The *Nivalis*, SNOW-BUNTING, *Pied-Mountain-Finch*, *Pied Chaffinch*, *Snow-bird*, *Snow-flake*, has the quill feathers white, the primaries black on the outer edge; tail feathers black, the lateral ones white. Three other varieties; in all the colours vary with age, sex, climate, most of them being nearly white in winter, but the back and middle coverts black; larger than the chaffinch. They inhabit, during summer in vast flocks, the north of Europe, Asia, and America; in winter migrate to a warmer climate; they appear in Scotland in large flocks during the winter; rarely seen in the south of England. Builds in holes of rocks, it is said, occasionally in Scotland; eggs five, reddish white spotted with brown.

The *Hortulana*, or ORTOLAN, has the quill feathers brown, the three first whitish at the edges; tail feathers brown, the two lateral ones black on the outer side; three or four other varieties. Inhabits Europe; rarely seen in this country; six and a quarter inches long; feeds chiefly on panic grass; grows very fat, and then esteemed a delicacy; lays twice a year four or five grey eggs, in a low hedge or on the ground.

The CITRINEL, REED-SPARROW, brown BUNTING-
LARK,
'Midst the wild warbling throng you might also remark.

The *Citrinella*, YELLOW-HAMMER, *Yellow-Bunting*, or *Willy Winky*, has the bill black; tail feathers blackish; crown, cheeks, and body beneath yellow, above greenish black. Inhabits Europe and this country; in winter gregarious. Builds sometimes on the ground, sometimes in low bushes; nest very deep; eggs whitish purple, with irregular spots and streaks, sometimes nearly white. Its notes scarcely amount to a song.—See forwards.

The *Miliaria*, COMMON-BUNTING, *Bunting*, *Bunting-lark*, or *Ebb*, is brown, spotted beneath with black; rather larger than the preceding. Inhabits most parts of Europe and this country; builds in grass; eggs four, dirty white, spotted and veined with reddish brown or ash colour. Gregarious in the winter.

The *Schœnichus*, REED-BUNTING, *Reed-Sparrow*, or *Water-Sparrow*, is six inches long; it has the head black, body grey and black. Two other varieties; one brown, cinereous beneath; the other white, with dusky wings. Inhabits Europe, this country, and Southern Siberia; the second variety, the Cape; the third Astracan. Builds its nest on the ground near water, sometimes in a bush, and sometimes in grass, reeds, or even in furze. Eggs four or five, bluish-white or purple brown, with spots and veins resembling those of the chaffinch. *The nest of this bird is never fastened or suspended, nor does it sing in the night, as some authors have related.*—MONTAGU.

The *Oryzivora*, RICE-BUNTING, or *Rice-bird*, is black, crown reddish; tail feathers daggered. Another variety olive brown, beneath yellowish; six inches and three quarters long. Inhabits Cuba, and migrates to Carolina as the rice crops advance, committing great ravages, whence its name; it afterwards proceeds

The Creeper (21) of modest demeanour was there ;
Yet he seem'd for the throng very little to care.

to New York to feed on the young Indian corn ; sings well. See the Introduction.

Several other *Buntings* are found in this country ; I can merely name them. The *Cirlus*, or Cirl-Bunting ;—the *Chlorocephala*, or Green-headed Bunting ;—the *Montana*, Mountain-Bunting, *Lesser-Mountain-Finch*, or *Brambling* ;—and the *Mustelina*, Tawny-Bunting, *Great-Pied-Mountain-Finch*, *Sea-Lark*, or *Brambling*. This last is rarely met with in England.—For an account of another curious bird of this tribe, the Cow Bunting, or *Cowpen*, see Part II.

(21) Order, Picæ, (*Linn.*) Creeper, the Common, the Mocking.

The *genus* Certhia, (*Linn.*) or Creeper, consists of about one hundred species, dispersed through most of the countries of the globe; they feed chiefly on insects, in search of which they creep up and down trees ; they breed in hollow trees, and lay numerous eggs ; bill arched, slender, somewhat triangular, pointed ; feet formed for walking ; claws hooked and long. The two following are the chief.

The *Familiaris*, Common Creeper, *Tree-Creeper*, or *Tree-Climber*, the only species of the genus found in England, is five inches long, has the back, rump, and scapulars, inclining to tawny, beneath white ; quill feathers brown ; it runs with wonderful facility above or under the branches of trees. Another variety, differing only in being larger. Eggs from six to eight, white, minutely speckled with bright rust colour. During incubation the female is fed by the male.

The *Sannis*, or Mocking Creeper, inhabits New Zealand ; seven and a quarter inches long ; imitates the voice and notes of other birds with surprising accuracy, whence its name.

The BUTCHER-BIRD (22) bold, like his kinsman the
SHRIKE,
With his bill was quite ready a death-blow to strike :

(22) ORDER, ACCIPITRES, *(Linn.)* SHRIKE, the GREAT, the RED-BACKED, the TYRANT, the BUTCHER-BIRD, WOOD-CHAT, &c.

The *genus* LANIUS, *(Linn.)* or SHRIKE, consists of more than one hundred and twenty species, scattered over the globe; three, the *Excubitor* or GREAT SHRIKE, the *Collurio* or LESSER BUTCHER-BIRD, and the *Rutilus* or WOOD-CHAT, found in this country. The bill is straight at the base, the end hooked with a tooth on each mandible near the end; tongue jagged at the end; toes, the outer one connected to the middle one as far as the first joint. The birds of this genus are noisy and quarrelsome; prey on smaller birds, tearing them in pieces, and sticking the fragments on thorns. The following are the chief.

The *Excubitor*, GREAT-SHRIKE, *Cinereous-Shrike*, *Great Cinereous-Shrike*, *Greater Butcher-bird*, *Mattages*, *Wierangle*, *Murdering-bird*, *Shreek* or *Shrike*, *Night-jar*, *Mountain-Magpie*, or *French-Pie*, consists of three varieties; one has the tail wedged; white at the sides; back hoary; wings black, with a white body; another has a white body; legs yellowish; the third has the smaller wing coverts and shoulders reddish. In all the bill is black, crown and neck hoary; body beneath white, with pale brown arched lines; tail white at the tip, except the two middle feathers; cheeks white, with a black transverse line from the base of the bill; legs black; length ten inches. Found occasionally in England, and said to breed on some of our mountains, coming in May, and departing in September; it has been however seen in this country in November. It is trained in Russia for catching small birds. It does not tear its prey like the hawk, but fixes it to a thorn for the purpose of pulling it to

Fierce and dauntless the tribe, by their cruelty known;
The TYRANT infests not our temperate zone.

pieces. It is said to imitate the notes of some other birds by way of decoying them to their destruction.

Of the *Collurio*, RED-BACKED SHRIKE, or *Lesser Butcher-bird*, there are several varieties. The first has the tail somewhat wedged, back grey, four middle feathers uniform; bill lead colour. Common to England, which it visits in May, departing in September; eggs five or six, bluish white, with cinereous brown spots, or white with dusky spots. Feeds chiefly on insects, which it transfixes on a thorn, tearing off the body. This variety is called in this country the *Butcher-bird;* it is said to be a local species; it has been found in North Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Somersetshire, particularly about Bristol. It is found in Russia and France; and is common in Italy. It is seven inches long.

Another variety has the body grey, beneath reddish brown; inhabits Europe. Two other varieties inhabit Senegal. To these may be added another variety.

The *Rutilus*, WOOD-CHAT, or *Another sort of Butcher-bird*, has been by some naturalists described as a distinct species. It is about the size of the Red-backed Shrike; the body above variegated white and black, beneath reddish white. Common to this country.

It is either to this or the Great Shrike that DRAYTON, I presume, alludes in the following line:

> "The sharp-nebb'd *Hecco* stabbing at his brain;"
>
> OWL.

but this I have not been enabled, notwithstanding all my inquiries, accurately to determine. We sometimes wonder at the obscurity of the *Classics*, but here is a line, written scarcely two hundred years ago, that is not, it appears, now intelligible. Drayton again speaks of the *Hecco* in his Polyolbion, Song xiii.

The STORK (23) too, in plumage resplendent and white,
With black mingled tastefully, soar'd in the light;

thus, "The laughing *Hecco.*" What bird he means by the *Tydy*, in the preceding line,

"The *Tydy* for her notes as delicate as they,"

I do not know; nor do I know to what bird he alludes, in another line of the same song, under the term *Yellow-pate.*

The *Tyrannus*, or TYRANT-SHRIKE, has the body cinereous, beneath white, crown black, with a longitudinal tawny streak; eight inches long; builds in hollow trees; fierce, audacious; fixes on the back of eagles and hawks, and makes a continual chattering till they are compelled to retire. Three other varieties. Inhabits America.

(23) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) STORK, CRANE, DEMOISELLE, HERON, BITTERN, ADJUTANT, EGRET, &c.

The *genus* ARDEA, (*Linn.*) or CRANE, consists of more than one hundred species, of which the *Ciconia*, or STORK, is one of the chief. This tribe is distinguished by a long, straight, and pointed bill, sub-compressed with a furrow from the nostril towards the tip; nostrils linear; tongue pointed; feet four-toed, cleft. Every quarter of the globe furnishes some of the species. The following are the chief.

The *Ciconia*, STORK, or *White-Stork*, inhabits Europe, Asia, and America, yet never, it is said, within the tropics. It is three feet three inches long; bill red; the plumage is wholly white, except some of the scapulars, the greater coverts, and quill feathers, which are black. It is rarely met with in England; vast numbers resort to Holland, there to breed, and depart in autumn to winter in Egypt and Barbary; it is common also in France and Spain. In most countries the inhabitants hold them in veneration, most probably from their destroying

Distinguish'd and highly, in annals of fame,
The sacred GRALLATOR from Belgium last came;

reptiles, on which they feed; boxes are sometimes provided for them on the tops of houses; eggs from two to four, yellowish white, the size of those of a goose. Collins in his Ode to Liberty thus alludes to the Stork:

> "Or dwell in willow'd meeds more near
> With those to whom thy *Stork* is dear."

In a note to the poem we are informed that among the Dutch are severe penalties for killing this bird; and that they are kept tame in almost all their towns, particularly at the Hague, of the arms of which they make a part.

The *Grus*, CRANE, or COMMON-CRANE, weighs nearly ten pounds, and is in length five feet; the predominant plumage of this bird is ash colour. It is common in many parts of Europe and in Asia, migrating with the season. It was formerly common in the fenny districts of this country, but is now more rare. Makes a singular noise in its flight, which is said to be owing to the formation of its windpipe. Eggs two, bluish; feeds on reptiles and green corn. The young is good food.

The *Virgo*, DEMOISELLE-HERON, *Numidian-Crane*, or *Dancing-Crane*, is in length three feet three inches; the bill is two inches and a half long, straight, greenish at the base, changing to yellow with a red tip; the crown is ash colour; the rest of the head, greater part of the neck behind, and all forwards to the breast, black; feathers of the latter very long, some at least nine inches, hanging loose over the adjacent parts; the lower part of the neck behind, back, wings, tail, and all beneath, bluish ash; behind each eye springs a large tuft of long white feathers, which decline forwards, and hang in an elegant and graceful manner; legs long and black. Both sexes much alike. Inhabits Africa, the warmer parts of Asia, and the shores of the

Of her cities the boast—known to Gallia and Spain—
To Afric's north clime, and the Nile's fertile plain;

Mediterranean; feeds on fish. This bird bears confinement and breeds in some menageries; its manners are gentle, and it sometimes puts itself in elegant attitudes; at others strange and uncouth, especially such as imitate dancing. At Florence a bird of this species was taught to dance to a tune when played or sung to it. It is called in some parts of the East *Kurki* or *Querky;* it is common in India, where it is seen in vast flocks on the banks of the Ganges, in company with the crane; it is there called *Curcurna* and *Currakeel.* The trachea of this bird is of singular construction, not going, as in most birds, directly to the lungs, but first enters a cavity or groove in the keel of the breast bone for about three inches, when it returns, after making a bend forwards, and then passes into the chest.

The *Major,* HERON, COMMON-HERON, *Hern, Crested-Heron, Heronshaw, Hernshaw, Hernsew,* or *Crane,* is about three feet three inches long; forehead and crown of the head white; hind part of the head feathers glossy black, very long, forming a loose pendent crest; neck whitish, scapulars grey and white, wing coverts bluish grey; bastard wings, greater quill feathers, and sides of the body, from the breast to below the thighs, black; beneath white; tail bluish ash colour; legs very long. The female wants the black and white feathers on the head, instead of which that part is bluish grey, not much elongated into a crest. Found in most parts of the known world, and common in the fenny and marshy districts of England, where it builds frequently in large numbers together on trees, such associations being called *Heronries* or *Cranaries.* The nests are large and flat, made with sticks, lined with wool and other soft materials; eggs four or five greenish blue, size of those of a duck. Feeds on fishes and reptiles. This bird has been observed repeat-

Nay, o'er earth wings its flight, every where is caress'd,
Finds protection alike for itself and its nest.

edly to swallow the same eel, which has repeatedly crept through it. It is thus described by Drayton as awaiting for its prey:

"The long neck'd *hern* there waiting by the brim."
Man in the Moon.

And its flight thus:

"To inland marsh the *hern*
With undulating wing scarce visible
Far up the azure concave journies on."
△ *Blackwood's Mag. May* 1822.

Craneries are not very common in this country; they are however occasionally to be seen. At the present time (1825) there is, and for many years past has been, a *Cranery* at *Brockley* woods, near Bristol. I am indebted for this information to my friend the Rev. W. PHELPS, of Wells. There are also *Heronries*, according to Dr. LATHAM, at the following places:—*Penshurst*, Kent; *Hutton*, in Yorkshire; *Gobay Park*, near Penrith; and *Cressi Hall*, near Spalding. There is also now one at *Donnington-in-Holland*, in Lincolnshire.—WHITWORTH.

The *Heron* was formerly in this country a bird of game, heron-hawking being a favourite diversion with our ancestors; laws were also enacted for the preservation of this bird, and the person who destroyed its eggs was liable to a penalty of twenty shillings.

The *Gardeni*, GARDENIAN, or *Spotted-Heron*, the size of a rook, is also found occasionally in this country; it also inhabits South Carolina and Cayenne. The *Minuta*, LITTLE-BITTERN, *Boonk* or *Long-neck*, is a beautiful bird, scarcely larger than a fieldfare in the body; it is rarely found in this country, more frequently on the European continent.

The *Nycticorax*, NIGHT-HERON, *Night-Raven*, *Lesser ash-*

The BITTERN came booming from marshes among;
The HERON, notorious for legs that are long,
From his trees' social city beside the moist fen,
Flew with wide flapping wing, to and fro, o'er the glen.

coloured Heron or *Qua-bird*, is about two feet long; it is rare in England; more common in Russia and America. It is minutely described by WILSON. The crown is crested, which, and the hind head, is dark-blue, glossed with green; three very narrow, white, and tapering feathers, proceed from the hind head, about nine inches long; these the bird erects when alarmed; back and scapulars deep blue, glossed with green; beneath white. It is migratory in Pennsylvania; called in America *Qua-bird*, from its note *Qua*.

The *Stellaris*, BITTERN, *Bittour, Bumpy-coss, Butter-Bump* or *Miredrum*, is rather less than the common heron; its plumage is, in general, of a dull pale yellow, elegantly variegated with spots and bars of black; the great coverts and quill feathers are ferruginous, regularly barred with black; legs pale green. Inhabits the temperate parts of Europe, Asia, and both Americas. In this country it is found chiefly a few miles from the sea-coast, in sedgy moors, where it breeds among reeds, laying four or five eggs of a greenish ash-colour. It feeds on fishes and reptiles. About sun-set rises in the air to a vast height in a spiral direction, making a prodigious noise:

> "Swift as the bittern soars on spiral wing."
>
> SOUTHEY'S *Curse of Kehama.*

It also makes a peculiarly deep and hollow sound in the spring during the breeding season, which is called by naturalists *booming:* see below. It migrates from one part of the country to another; but it is in this kingdom scarce, and esteemed a rarity at the tables of the great. If brought down by the gun with only a broken wing, it displays great courage, and cannot with safety be secured till deprived of life. "A bittern was

The CRANE, in his unostentatious ash-grey,
And with pinions of power that he chose to display,
Arose at two bounds with an eel in his mouth;
The LITTLE white EGRET, too, came from the south.

shot and eaten at Keswick by a young Cantab a few years ago; for which shooting," says Mr. SOUTHEY, "I vituperate him in spirit whenever I think of it."

The *Egretta*, GREAT-EGRET, or *Great-White-Heron*, is three feet three inches long; the whole plumage white. It is found in both North and South America; builds sometimes on trees; eggs three or four, pale blue; feeds on frogs, lizards, &c.; if taken young, easily domesticated.

The *Garzetta*, or LITTLE-EGRET, is the size of a fowl; the whole plumage white; found in all the warmer parts of the globe; once plentiful in this country, although now extremely scarce.

The *Gigantea*, GIGANTIC-CRANE, ADJUTANT, *Hurgill*, *Argill*, *Argala*, *Large-Throat*, or *Bone-taker*, is the largest of the tribe, expanding fourteen feet ten inches; the bill is of a vast size, yellowish-white or horn colour, and opens very far up into the head; the head and neck naked; front yellow; on the lower part of the neck, and before, is a large conical pouch; the upper part of the back and shoulders furnished with white feathers; back and wing coverts deep bluish ash; beneath white. Inhabits the East Indies and Africa; feeds on various reptiles; a very useful bird, and hence much respected. The feathers of the vent used by the ladies as ornaments for the head in a similar way as those of the ostrich.

A *Crane* is described in *Chandler's Travels* in Asia Minor, as having a white body with black pinions; it is like a heron, but much larger; it builds frequently on domes, and other buildings. They often make a great clatter with their long beaks, which is sometimes repeated by others all over the town. This noise is sometimes continued through the whole of the night.

The DEMOISELLE HERON, by *dancing* well known,
With a bending trachea beneath the breast bone,
In attitudes elegant seem'd to delight,
While displaying his feathers long, pendent and white.
The HOOPOE (24),with tuft, look'd a gallant dragoon;—
Seem'd ready as soldier to range in platoon;

The Turks call this bird friend and brother; of course, it is much respected; a variety, most probably, of the stork. Mr. SOUTHEY has described these birds, and the *Bittern's Booming*, in the following lines:

> "The cranes upon the mosque
> Kept their night clatter still;
> When through the gate the early traveller past.
> And when at evening o'er the swampy plain
> The *Bittern's Boom* came far,
> Distinct in darkness seen—
> Above the low horizon's lingering light
> Rose the near ruins of Old Babylon."
>
> THALABA, vol. i. page 224.

(24) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) HOOPOE, the COMMON, the CRESTED, the GRAND PROMEROPS, &c.

The *genus* UPUPA, (*Linn.*) HOOPOE, or *Hoop*, consists of ten or more species scattered over the warmer climates of the globe. They have an arched, long, slender, convex, a little compressed, and somewhat obtuse, bill; nostrils small, at the base of the bill; tongue obtuse, entire, triangular, very short; feet formed for walking. The following are the chief:

The *Epops*, or COMMON-HOOPOE, is often seen in this country; it is a beautiful bird, in length twelve inches, and distinguished by its enormous tuft of feathers, which rises perpendicularly from the crown of the head, and which it can erect or depress at pleasure. The crest feathers are brown, tipt with black; the back, scapulars, and wings, are crossed with broad bars of white and black; breast and belly white. Found all over

And, proud of his plumage and proud of his air,
He mingled with birds at once splendid and rare.

the ancient continent, from Lapland and Sweden, to the Orcades, the Canaries, and at the Cape of Good Hope. In Europe they are birds of passage, and are seen among those vast crowds of birds which twice a-year pass the island of Malta. Their food is insects; their flesh smells strongly of musk; they build in holes of rotten trees, or in old walls, occasionally in this country; eggs from two to seven.

The *Paradisea*, or CRESTED HOOPOE, is about the size of a thrush, and weighs from two to four ounces; length nineteen inches; two of the tail feathers very long; inhabits India. So large a crest, added to a creature of so diminutive a size, renders this bird one of the most fantastical of the feathered tribe. The crest consists of two rows of feathers equidistant; the whole of these feathers are red, and terminate with a black spot; the upper part of the body is grey, with a tinge of brown, varied with transverse waves of dirty white; the wings and tail are black, undulated with bars of white. Some varieties of this bird in Europe; a distinct species in Madagascar and the Cape. When tamed, shews great attachment to its master; when fully domesticated, eats either bread or raw flesh. A variety in Egypt excellent food.

The *Superba*, or GRAND-PROMEROPS, is one of the most rich, splendid, and singular in plumage of the whole tribe of birds. It is the size of a pigeon in body, but measures nearly four feet in length. Hind part of the head and upper part of the belly glossy green; the rest of the upper parts black, changing to violet; inhabits New Guinea. There is a beautiful coloured engraving of this bird in Dr. LATHAM's work: it is not easily described.

The *Mexicana*, or MEXICAN PROMEROPS, is the size of a song thrush; inhabits Mexico. The *Papuensis*, or NEW GUINEA BROWN PROMEROPS, is twenty-two inches long; inhabits New Guinea.

Timid ROLLERS (25), in robes ting'd with red and
with blue,
To clamour devoted, came also a few.
The NUTHATCH (26) was whistling while climbing the
trees,
Intent more on pleasing himself than to please.

(25) ORDER, PICÆ, *(Linn.)* ROLLER, the GARRULOUS.

The *genus* CORACIAS, *(Linn.)* or ROLLER, consists of nearly thirty species scattered over the globe: the characteristics are, a sharp-edged bill, bent at the point, base without feathers; tongue cartilaginous, bifid; legs short; feet formed for walking. The most deserving notice is

The *Garrula*, GARRULOUS, or COMMON ROLLER, occasionally found in England, but more commonly on various parts of the European continent, particularly in Germany, Sicily, and Malta, where it is sold in the markets and poulterers' shops. It is the size of a jay; length twelve inches and half; its general plumage is blue; back red; quill feathers black, primary quill feathers beneath blue; middle tail feathers dirty green, the rest blue. It is remarkably clamorous, gregarious, migratory and timid; builds in trees, particularly the beech; feeds on insects, frogs, nuts, and corn. Eggs pale green, with numerous dusky spots. Inhabits Africa and Syria, as well as Europe. The rest of the species do not very essentially differ.

(26) ORDER, PICÆ, *(Linn.)* NUTHATCH.

The *genus* SITTA, *(Linn.)* or NUTHATCH, consists of more than twenty species; distinguished by a subulate, roundish, straight, entire bill, the upper mandible a little longer, compressed and angular at the tip; tongue jagged, short, the tip horny; nostrils small, covered with bristles; feet gressorial; hind-toe long. They are chiefly natives of America and the

The BUSTARD, (27) huge Rasor, with gular pouch long,
With legs formed for running and beak that is strong,

West Indies, a few of the Cape, and one of Europe; this last is denominated—

The *Europæa*, **NUTHATCH**, *Nutjobber*, or *Woodcracker*, is about the size of a sparrow; in length nearly six inches; it is cinereous, beneath reddish; tail feathers black; the four lateral ones beneath tipt with white; bill three quarters of an inch long; another variety less in size. It is common in some districts of this country, remaining all the year; it is said, not seen in Cornwall nor very far north. It creeps up and down the trunks of trees, and builds in their hollows. If the entrance of the hole be too large, it artfully fills it up with clay till it admits only its own body. Eggs six or seven, white, spotted with rust colour, and are exactly like those of the great titmouse. The nest is used as a magazine for winter provisions, and a retreat during the night. Their usual food is nuts, the shells of which they break with their bills; in defect of such food they eat insects and their *larvæ*. The notes of this bird are various; in the spring it has a loud shrill whistle; in the autumn a double reiterated cry; it is also said to sing in the night.

There is a beautiful poem called the FILBERT, written, I believe, by SOUTHEY, and printed in the first volume of the *Annual Anthology*, 1799, in which allusion is made to this bird:

"Enough of dangers and of enemies
Hath nature's wisdom for the worm ordained;
Him may the *Nuthatch*, piercing with strong bill,
Unwittingly destroy, or to his hoard
The squirrel bear, at leisure to be crack'd."

(27) ORDER, GALLINÆ, (*Lath.*) BUSTARD, the GREAT, the LITTLE, the THICK-KNEED.

The *genus* OTIS, (*Linn.*) or BUSTARD, consists of seventeen species, natives of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The characteris-

Whose presence this Island regards now as rare,
Came, also, to visit the LORD of the AIR.

tics of the tribe are, bill strong, a little incurvated; toes three before, none behind; legs long, and naked above the knees. The following, found in this country, are all that it is necessary to describe.

The *Tarda*, or **GREAT-BUSTARD**, is said to be the largest of the British birds, sometimes weighing as much as thirty pounds; found in some parts of this country, and inhabits also the open plains of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Its colour is wave-spotted with black, and rufous; beneath white; length four feet; female not so large, weighing about twelve pounds; she has also different shades of colour. The male has a long pouch, beginning under the tongue, and reaching to the breast, capable of holding several quarts of water, supposed to be for supplying the hen whilst sitting on the young, before they can fly with that fluid. It feeds on grains and herbs; is solitary, shy, and timid; flies heavily, but runs swiftly; is quick of sight and hearing; lays two pale olive-brown eggs, with darker spots, in a hole scraped in the ground. In autumn they are gregarious, when they leave the open downs for more sheltered situations. The eggs are eagerly sought after, for the purpose of hatching under hens: they have been reared thus in Wiltshire. As they are very valuable birds, and eagerly sought after, they are become scarce; they are still said to exist on some of the Wiltshire downs, but, from the latest information which I can collect, this may be doubted. From a paper lately read before the Linnean Society by Messrs. SHEPPARD and WHITEAR, it appears, however, that they now breed in the open parts of Suffolk and Norfolk. Mr. Hardy, of Norwich, has domesticated this bird, whether with advantage to its more productive powers we are not informed.

Tetrax, **LITTLE-BUSTARD**, or *Field-Bustard,* is about the size of a pheasant, being in length seventeen inches; the back

Of Game* he the monarch, whom often, of yore,
The hunter pursu'd over mountain and moor.

scapulars and wings are ferruginous, mottled with brown, and crossed with black lines; great quills black, white at the base; secondaries white; beneath white. Rarely found in this country; more common on the European continent, particularly France, where it is a delicacy. Eggs said to be green, and four or five in number.

The *Œnicdemus*, Thick-kneed-Bustard, *Stone-Curlew*, or *Norfolk-Plover*, is arranged by Linnæus under the genus *Charadrius*, or Plover; in compliance with later ornithologists, it is placed under this head. The general appearance of this bird is greyish; two first quill feathers black, white in the middle. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa. Migrates to this country, being found here the latter end of April; frequents open hilly situations, corn-fields, heaths, warrens. Lays two eggs, of a light brown colour, blotched with dusky, on the bare ground. Feeds on insects, worms, and reptiles. They leave this country in October. The male makes a piercing shrill cry.

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* The following are now the chief of the birds in this country by *law* denominated Game: *Partridges, Pheasants, Woodcocks, Snipes, Quails, Land-rails, Heath-fowl*, commonly called *Black-game; Grous*, called *Red-game* and *Moor-game*. But there are laws also, now become a kind of dead-letter, for the protection of the *eggs* of *Cranes, Bittours, Herons, Bustards, Shovelards, Mallards, Teals*, or other *Wild-fowl*. There is also a particular law for the protection of the eggs of *Pheasants, Partridges*, and *Swans*. Bustards are also forbidden to be killed between the first of March and the first of September; *Partridges, Pheasants*, and *Heath-fowl*, are also similarly protected; and destroying *Wild Ducks, Teal, Widgeons*, or other *Water-fowl*, in any fen, lake, broad-water, or other resort for wild-fowl, during the moulting season, namely, between the first of June and the first of October, subjects the offender to a penalty of 5s.

Degrading employment such toils of the chase;
May wisdom supply a more glorious race!
The WRYNECKS(28) contorting, the CUCKOO pursued;
And, as long as they chose, a few TURTLE-DOVES coo'd.

There were formerly great flocks of bustards in this country, upon the wastes and in woods, where they were hunted by greyhounds, and easily taken. They have been latterly recommended to be bred as domestic fowls, and, to those who desire novelty, the bustard seems to be peculiarly an object for propagation; the flesh is delicious; and it is supposed that good feeding and domestication might stimulate them to lay more eggs.

(28) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) WRYNECK.

The *genus* YUNX, (*Linn.*) or WRYNECK, consists of one species only, as follows:

The *Torquilla*, WRYNECK, *Long-tongue*, *Emmet-Hunter*, or *Cuckoo's Maiden*, is a beautiful bird about seven inches long; it has a smooth-pointed, a little incurved, weak bill; feet climbers; colour grey, varied with brown and blackish; belly reddish white, with blackish spots; tail feathers waved, with black spots, streaks, and bars; the whole plumage a mixture of grey, black, and tawny. It arrives in this country sometimes as early as the middle of March. Its chief food is ants and their eggs, which it takes with the tongue. The name *Wryneck* has been given to it from the awkward contortions of its head and neck; it also erects the feathers of the head in a terrific manner. It makes a noise very much like the smaller species of hawks. It quits this country about September, at which time it grows very fat, and is then esteemed a delicacy: it has sometimes been called an ortolan, from its resemblance to that delicate bird.

"The Welsh," says Mr. GISBORNE, "consider the *Wryneck*

MERGANSERS (29) came many, with fish in their
throat,
By gluttony prompted their bodies to bloat.

as the forerunner or servant of the cuckoo; the Swedes regard it in the same light; in the midland countries of England the common people call it the *Cuckoo's Maiden.*" Is this one of the birds to which I have alluded as sometimes seen accompanying the cuckoo? See the note on the cuckoo.

"In sober brown
Drest, but with nature's tenderest pencil touch'd,
The *wryneck* her monotonous complaint
Continues; harbinger of her who doom'd
Never the sympathetic joy to know
That warms the mother cowering o'er her young,
A stranger robs, and to that stranger's love
Her egg commits unnatural."

GISBORNE'S *Walks in a Forest.*

(29) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) MERGANSER, GOOSANDER, SMEW, DUN DIVER, &c.

The *genus* MERGUS, (*Linn.*) or MERGANSER, consists of six or more species, five of which are common to this country, the rest to Europe and America. They have a toothed, slender, cylindrical bill, hooked at the point; nostrils small oval; feet four-toed, three before palmate; hind toe furnished with a fin. Most of the species are of a middle size, between that of a goose and a duck. They swallow with voracity fishes that are too large to enter entire into the stomach, and hence, while one end is digesting, the other often remains in the throat. They are said to be the most destructive of all birds which plunder the waters; their flesh is very indifferent food. The following are the chief:

The *Merganser*, or GOOSANDER, is white, subcrested; head,

There were CORMORANTS stretching their necks as
they flew;
And the WHITE NUN of beauty, nam'd vulgarly SMEW.
The DUN-DIVER, too, from a far northern lake,
With the GOOSANDER came of the glee to partake.

neck, and upper part of the breast and wings glossy black; tail cinereous. Feeds on fish; flesh rancid. Found in our rivers and lakes in severe winters, but retires to more northern latitudes to breed. It is said to be found in the Hebrides in summer, and to continue in the Orkneys the whole year. It is found also on the European continent, in Asia, Greenland, and some parts of America.

The *Minutus*, MINUTE-MERGANSER, *Minute-Smew*, *Weesel Coot*, *Red-headed Smew*, or *Lough-Diver*, is about the size of a teal; colour brown ash, beneath white. Not often met with in the south of England, and then only in severe winters.

The *Serrator*, RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, *Red-breasted Goosander*, *Lesser-toothed Diver*, or *Serula*, has a pendent crest, breast varied with reddish; length twenty inches; seen occasionally in the south of England; more frequently in the north; said to breed in Holland; found also in Russia and Siberia.

The *Castor*, DUN-DIVER, or *Sparkling-Fowl*, is twenty-five inches long; found in the north of England; and in Germany, and in the lakes in the more northern parts of the world.

The *Albellus*, SMEW, or *White-Nun*, has the body white; back and temples black; wings variegated; rather larger that a teal; found occasionally in this country; but mostly inhabits the northern lakes. This is the most beautiful of the whole tribe.

The *Imperialis*, or IMPERIAL GOOSANDER, is varied with black, brown, and grey; size of a goose; inhabits Sardinia.

The grey-brown AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE (30) strutted
along;
The shrew'd OYSTER-CATCHER (31) made one of the
throng;

(30) **ORDER, GRALLÆ,** (*Lath.*) **PRATINCOLE, the AUSTRIAN, the SENEGAL, the SPOTTED.**

The *genus* GLAREOLA, (*Lath.*) or PRATINCOLE, consists of seven species; they have a strong, stout, straight bill, hooked at the tip; nostrils at the base of the bill linear, oblique; gape of the mouth large; feet four-toed; toes long, slender, connected at the base by a membrane; tail forked. The following are the chief: the *Austriaca*, or AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE, is above grey-brown, collar black; chin and throat white; breast and belly reddish grey; about nine inches long. Four other varieties: three inhabit the heaths of Europe, near the banks of rivers; two found on the coast of Coromandel. Feeds on worms and aquatic insects; is very noisy and clamorous. The *Senegalensis*, or SENEGAL PRATINCOLE, is entirely brown; nine and a half inches long; found in Senegal and Siberia. The *Nævia*, or SPOTTED PRATINCOLE, is brown spotted with white; size of the *Austriaca*; inhabits Germany.

(31) **ORDER, GRALLÆ,** (*Linn.*) **OYSTER-CATCHER.**

The *genus* HÆMATOPUS, (*Linn.*) or OYSTER-CATCHER, consists of four species, of which the *Ostralgeus*, SEA-PIE, OYSTER-CATCHER, PIED OYSTER-CATCHER, *Pienet*, or *Olive*, is the chief. It has a compressed bill, the tip an equal wedge; nostril linear; tongue a third part of the length of the bill; feet formed for running; toes three, no back toe; body sometimes totally black: frequently head, neck, and body, above black, beneath white; inhabits almost every shore; common on the sea coasts of this country; about sixteen inches long; feeds on marine worms and insects, but chiefly on oysters and limpets, which it obtains from the shells with great dexterity. It makes

The AUK (32) for stupidity ever renown'd ;
And PUFFINS, and TERNS, too, in numbers abound.

no nest, but deposits its eggs, which are, generally, olivaceous brown, on the bare ground, above high-water mark. It is easily tamed when young, and has been known to attend ducks and other poultry to feed and shelter.

(32) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) AUK, RAZOR-BILL, PUFFIN, PENGUIN, &c.

The *genus* ALCA, (*Linn.*) AUK, consists of more than ten species; the following are its characteristics; bill toothless, short; lower mandible gibbous near the base ; nostrils linear; tongue almost as long as the bill; toes three, forward, webbed, none behind. Its colour is nearly uniform, above black, beneath white; body shaped like a duck's. It is chiefly an inhabitant of the arctic seas; very stupid; builds in rabbit holes and fissures of rocks; lays one egg. The following deserve notice.

The *Pica*, or BLACK-BILLED AUK, is the shape and size of the *Razor-bill*, and found on our coasts in the winter season.

The *Torda*, RAZOR-BILL, *Auk*, *Common-Auk*, or *Murre*, weighs about twenty-seven ounces; is, in length, eighteen inches. Bill two inches long, from the corner of the mouth, much compressed sideways, three quarters of an inch deep at the largest part, much arched and hooked at the upper end of the mandible; all the upper parts of the bird are a dusky black, beneath white. This bird is not seen in this country in the winter, but repairs to our rocky coasts in the spring, where it lays one very large egg, size of a turkey's, of a dirty white colour, blotched with brown and dusky, on the projecting shelves of the highest rocks, where the birds may be seen by hundreds in a row, and where they may be taken up and replaced; such appears to be their great stupidity. Feeds on small fish, particularly sprats. The eggs of this bird, and of the foolish guillemot, are an article of trade in several of the Scottish

The WILD-GEESE, in triangle-troops, from the fen,
With wing slow and steady, flew over the glen.

isles; they are used for refining sugar. They are also eaten by the natives; they are obtained by suspending a person to a rope from the tops of the cliffs.

The *Arctica*, **PUFFIN**, *Coulternel*, *Lunda Bouger*, *Mullet*, *Bottle-nose*, *Pope*, *Marrot*, or *Sea-Parrot*, of which there are two varieties, is, in length, about twelve inches; it inhabits the northern seas of Europe, Asia, and America, in vast flocks; body black, cheeks, breasts, and belly, white; bill red; legs red. Feeds on fish and sea-weed; flesh, except when very young, rank. Appears on our rocky coasts in April; egg one, which it lays in the crevice of a rock or in rabbit burrows; also burrows occasionally like rabbits, in order to lay its egg. The young are sometimes caught with ferrets; they are preserved pickled. They are found on Dover cliffs, where it is, indiscriminately with the Razor-bill, called *Willock*; off the coast of Anglesea, &c. They leave our coasts together with the Razor-bill and Guillemot in September.

The winter haunts of these birds have been heretofore merely conjectured. The late voyagers to the arctic regions, however, inform us that they are found in great numbers on the open waters of the polar seas; that they there feed on insects; and where also they furnished the navigators with an agreeable repast.

The *Impennis*, **GREAT-AUK**, or *Penguin*, inhabits Europe and America; is three feet long; timid; cannot fly, but dives admirably; feeds on fishes; head, neck, back, and wings, glossy black; wings short, as though mere rudiments; legs black. Found only in the most northern parts of the kingdom; said to breed on St. Kilda. Egg one, white; six inches long; sometimes irregularly marked or blotched with ferruginous, and black at the larger end.

The *Alle*, **LITTLE-AUK**, or *Greenland-Dove*, is rather larger than a blackbird; its plumage is generally black above, beneath

The PETRELS,(33) those storm-birds which sailors
affright,
Their oil spouted out with apparent delight.

white. Seen occasionally in this country; but common in Greenland, where it breeds; eggs two, bluish white, size of a pigeon's.

(33) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) PETREL the GIANT, the STORMY, the BROAD-BILLED, the FULMAR, the SHEARWATER, &c.

The genus PROCELLARIA, (*Linn.*) or PETREL, consists of about thirty species; three, the *Pelagica*, or STORMY-PETREL, the *Puffinus*, or SHEARWATER, and the *Glacialis*, or FULMAR, are found in this country. The characteristics of the tribe are, a strait bill bent at the end; nostrils in one tube; legs naked a little above the knee. Toes three, forward, webbed; a spur behind instead of a back toe. They live chiefly at sea, and have the faculty of spouting from their bills, to a considerable distance, a large quantity of pure oil. They feed on the fat of dead whales and other fishes.

The *Gigantea*, GIANT-PETREL, or *Mother Cary's Goose*, is the largest of the Petrel genus, being in length forty inches, and expands seven feet; body above pale brown, mottled with dusky white, beneath white. Found at the Isle of Desolation, and other places in high southern latitudes; most active in storms or at the approach of them. It visits also, occasionally, the northern hemisphere. Feeds on flesh and fish. Flesh said to be good.

The *Pelagica*, STORMY-PETREL, *Storm-finch*, *Little Petrel*, *Witch*, or *Mother-Cary's-Chicken*; in some provinces called, I believe, *Sea-swallow*, and, in its general appearance, size, and flight, is not unlike a swallow. It is above black, beneath sooty brown, or dusky; rump white: another variety having the wing coverts spotted with green; inhabits most seas; they are excellent divers, and are said to breed in some of our northern islands. They are seen in vast numbers all over the atlantic ocean, and will follow a ship for many days; except at breeding

The Sparrow-Hawk, also, seem'd pleas'd to be there;
His garden to-day did not ask for his care.

time, seldom seen near the shore; braves the utmost fury of the storm, skimming along with great velocity among the waves; if seen hovering round the sterns of vessels, a presage of foul weather. Seen occasionally on the various coasts of this country, and sometimes far inland. One was lately taken at Yarmouth, Norfolk; when killed, oil issued from the nostrils.

"Here ran the *stormy-petrels* on the waves
As though they were the shadows of themselves.—
They plough'd not, sow'd not, gather'd not in barns,
Yet harvests inexhaustible they reap'd
In the prolific furrows of the main;
Or from its sunless caverns brought to light
Treasures for which contending kings might war:
From the rough shell they pick'd the luscious food,
And left a prince's ransom in the *pearl*."

Montgomery's *Pelican Island*.

The *Puffinus*, Shearwater, *Shearwater-Petrel, Manks-Puffin*, or *Lyre*, is black above, beneath white; length fifteen inches: another variety, above cinereous, beneath white; inhabits southern and antarctic seas; found also in the Hebrides, Orkney Isles, and the Calf of Man, where they breed; egg one, white, laid in a rabbit burrow or other hole. The young are taken in August, salted and barrelled, and, when boiled, eaten with potatoes. The young of these, and some other of the species, are fed by the oil discharged from their stomachs. Migrates from the Scottish isles in autumn.

The *Vittata*, or Broad-billed Petrel, is bluish ash, beneath white; inhabits the antarctic seas; twelve inches long; flies in numerous flocks. The *Urinatrix* is blackish-brown; beneath white; dives dexterously; inhabits round New Zealand in numerous flocks; eight and a half inches long.

The *Glacialis*, Fulmar-Petrel, or *Fulmar*, is whitish, back

There were Moor-Hens (34) and Didappers, many
a Coot.
The Willow-wren touch'd, with much taste, too, his
lute.

hoary; another variety with blackish wings; size of a gull. Rarely seen on our southern coasts, but frequent in some of the islands of the north of Scotland; breeds at St. Kilda, and supplies the inhabitants with a large quantity of oil, which is used for culinary as well as medical purposes; egg one, large, white. Feeds on the most oily fishes. It is also found in New Zealand, and affords food, feathers for beds, oil for lamps, and a medicine in almost every disease incident to the New Zealanders; it is found also in various other parts of the world.

(34) Order, Grallæ, (*Linn.*) Coot the Common, the Greater, the Moor; Gallinule, the Purple, the Crowing, &c.

The *genus* Fulica, (*Linn.*) or Coot, consists of forty or more species, including several of the birds termed Gallinules. Among which the *Chloropus*, or Moor-Hen, will be found. This tribe of birds frequent waters; feed on worms, insects, and small fishes; the body is compressed, bill thick, and bent in towards the top, the upper mandible reaching far up the forehead; wings and tail short. The Gallinules have the feet cleft, the wings short and concave. The *Coots* have the toes surrounded by a scolloped membrane; the mandibles equal; nostrils oval, narrow, and short. The *Gallinules*, therefore, are to be distinguished by *cleft* feet; the *Coots* by *pinnate* feet. Dr. Latham has separated these into distinct genera;—see the Introduction. The following are the chief:

The *Chloropus*, Common-Gallinule, *Moor-Hen*, *Common Water Hen*, *More-Hen*, *Marsh-Hen*, *Cuddy*, or *Moor-Coot*, has a blackish body, or sooty mixed with olive, beneath ash-colour; bill reddish towards the base; sides red. Inhabits Europe and

Some dark, sooty GALLINULES, known by cleft feet,
Were there, too, the AQUILINE MONARCH to greet.

America, and also this country. Fourteen inches long. Flies with difficulty, but runs and swims well; builds near the water side, on low trees or shrubs; strikes with its bill like a hen; eggs dirty whitish, spotted with rust-colour, from six to ten in number, which it lays twice or thrice a year. Time of incubation three weeks; the young take to the water immediately on being hatched. Abounds in the fenny districts of England; flesh delicious.

Of the *Atra*, COOT, COMMON-COOT, or *Bald-Coot*, there are five varieties; one with a blackish body; another black with white wings; another entirely black; another brown, but the chin, belly, and primary quill feathers white; head spotted with white, the upper mandible red; another white, with a few spots on the head and wings. This species inhabits Europe, Asia, and America; length fifteen inches, and is frequent in this country in many of our lakes, rivers, and large ponds, forming a floating nest among the flags. Eggs six, or more, dirty white, sprinkled with minute rusty spots. The young, when hatched, very deformed; runs along the water; swims and dives dexterously; feeds on insects, fishes, and seeds; in winter often repairs to the sea. They are occasionally sold in our markets; flavour rather fishy. It breeds in Norfolk in considerable numbers, where large gulls attack and devour them. The Coot is soon reconciled to confinement, and becomes domestic.

This bird, if deprived of water in which to pass the night, will roost, as other land birds, upon any elevated situation: it will ascend a tree with the activity of the wren. *Linn. Transact.* vol. xiv. page 558.

"The *Coot* her jet-wing loved to lave,
Rock'd on the bosom of the sleepless wave."

ROGERS'S *Pleasures of Memory*.

Long-tailed Capons ([35]) came also, whose singular nest,
With its skill and its comfort hath many impress'd.

The *Aterrima*, or **Greater-Coot**, with a blackish body, inhabits, like the last, our own country, and other parts of Europe, but is by no means so common a bird. It differs from the preceding chiefly in size and the deepness of its black colour.

The *Purpurea*, or **Crowing-Gallinule**, is purple; inhabits the marshes of New Spain, and crows like a cock.

The *Porphyrio*, **Purple-Gallinule**, or *Sultana*, inhabits most of the temperate and warm places of the globe; seventeen inches long; head and neck glossy violet and violet blue; body, for the most part, of a dull glossy green; eggs three or four; time of incubation from three to four weeks; associating with other fowls, and, like them, scratching the ground. It is docile, and easily tamed, and is altogether a curious bird; it stands on one leg, and lifts its food to its mouth with the other; feeds on fishes, roots, fruits, and seeds.

([35]) **Order, Passeres,** (*Linn.*) **Titmouse,** the **Long-tailed,** the **Great,** the **Blue,** or **Tomtit,** the **Marsh,** the **Bearded,** the **Amorous,** the **Crested,** &c.

The *genus* **Parus,** (*Linn.*) or **Titmouse,** comprehends nearly forty species, of which the *Caudatus*, or **Long-tailed Capon,** is one. They have a straight, strong, sharp-pointed bill; nostrils round, covered with reflected bristles, tongue truncated; toes divided to their origin, back toe long and strong. It is a very fertile tribe, laying sometimes from ten to twenty eggs; feeds on seed, fruit, insects, and a few on flesh. They are restless, bold, and cruel to birds less than themselves, and will attack such as are three times their own size. The following are the chief:

The *Caudatus*, **Long-tailed Titmouse,** *Long-tailed Capon, Huch-muck, Bottle-Tom, Bum-barrel, Barrel-Tit, Long-tail Mag,*

Even the elegant ORIOLE,* in vesture of GOLD,
(Go thou who art sceptic such birds' nests behold!)
Came to grace, by his presence, the redolent spring,
And to proffer respect to the AQUILINE KING.

Long-tail Pie, *Mum-ruffin*, or *Pudding-Poke*, is the smallest of the tribe; the tail longer than the body; crown white; greater wing coverts black, lesser brown, edged with rosy; length rather more than five inches. For a description of its nest see the *Notes* to the Introduction. The nest is, however, occasionally varied in size, form, and the position of its entrance. In a drawing of one, a fac-simile of it, lately obtained for me by a friend from the neighbourhood of Dover, it is much neater externally than this nest usually appears: it looks like a truncated cylinder, the top being arched over, on one side of which is the hole. Eggs small, seventeen or more, white spotted with rusty; sometimes a pure white without any spots. Feeds on insects and their larvæ. Inhabits Europe and this country.

The *Major*, GREAT-TITMOUSE, *Ox-eye*, *Great-black-headed Tomtit*, *Black-cap*, has the head black, cheeks white; back and wings olive green; rump blue grey; belly greenish yellow; length five inches and three quarters; frequents gardens, but builds in woods; eggs ten, or more, colour of those of the preceding. Said to be injurious to gardens and orchards by picking off the tender buds from trees; but this may be questioned. Inhabits Europe, Asia, Africa, and this country. Another variety with the bill forked, and crossed as in the *loxia curvirostra*, thence named the *Cross-bill Titmouse*. Builds in the hole of a wall or a tree.

The *Cæruleus*, TOMTIT, *Blue-Titmouse*, *Nun*, or *Hickmall*, has the back yellowish-green, tail blue; body, beneath, white-yellow; four and a half inches long; frequents gardens like the

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* For an account of the *Golden-Oriole*, see Part II.; for the Orioles' *nests*, see page 23.

Many TITMICE were there too—the BEARDED—the
GREAT;
One whose PENDULINE nest is commodious and neat.

last; said to be a very mischievous bird; breeds in holes of walls, and lays six or more eggs, similar in colours to the preceding. Inhabits every part of Europe, and well known in this country. It is a great enemy to the annual sun-flower seed, destroying it almost always, if not prevented long before it is ripe. In food this bird appears, however, to be omnivorous, eating even flesh. Except in its attacks on the sun-flower seed, (*Helianthus annuus*,) I am not aware of any of its mischievous depredations; although in some places the churchwardens still pay, I believe, for tomtits' heads as well as those of sparrows.

The *Palustris*, MARSH-TITMOUSE, *Black-cap*, or *Little black-headed Tomtit*, has the head black; back cinereous; temples white. Three other varieties; all found in this country, except one, a native of Louisiana. It is rather larger than the tomtit.

The *Pendulinus*, or PENDULINE-TITMOUSE, frequents moist and marshy places, and builds a nest in the shape of a large purse, with an opening on one side, and attached to the end of some branch of a tree hanging over water; eggs white; four and a half inches long; inhabits Europe, as far as Siberia.

The *Biarmicus*, BEARDED-TITMOUSE, or *Least-Butcher-Bird*, is a very elegant species; six and a quarter inches long; the head is bearded; body rufous; tail longer than the body; suspends its nest between three reeds; inhabits Europe in marshy places, and found in our own country.

The *Amatorius*, or AMOROUS-TITMOUSE, is blackish blue, five and half inches long; remarkable for the great affection which each sex shows for each other; inhabits Northern Asia.

Beside these, the following inhabitants of this country may also be mentioned: the *Cristatus*, or CRESTED-TITMOUSE; and the *Ater*, or COLEMOUSE.

The Partridges (36), also, well pleas'd came to court,
Secure, as they hoped, both from Sportsmen and Sport.

(36) **Order, Gallinæ,** (*Linn.*) **Partridge, Grouse, Quail, Ptarmigan, Tinamou,** &c.

The *genus* **Tetrao,** (*Linn.*) under which the **Partridge, Grouse,** &c. are arranged, consists of more than one hundred and thirty species, scattered over various parts of the world; several of them are inhabitants of this country. The general character of the tribe is having, near the eye, a spot which is either naked or papillous, or, rarely, covered with feathers. It has also been thus subdivided :—**Grouse** having the spot over the eye naked; legs downy; feet in some four, in some three, toed.—**Partridge** and **Quail,** orbits granulated, legs naked; the *Partridges* in the male armed with a spur at the legs; the *Quails* destitute of a spur.—The **Tinamou,** orbits with a few feathers, legs naked, four toed, unarmed. Dr. **Latham** has described *fifteen* species of the **Tinamou** (*Tinamus*), *ninety-one* of the **Partridge** (*Perdix*), and *twenty-seven* of the **Grouse** (*Tetrao*). The following are the chief species of this numerous tribe.

The *Perdix*, **Partridge,** or *Common-Partridge*, has under the eyes a naked, scarlet spot; general colour of the plumage cinereous brown and black mixed; breast brown, tail ferruginous, legs white. Several varieties,—greyish white—entirely white—collar white—body brown—chin and upper part of the throat tawny. Inhabits Europe and Asia, and well known in this country. Length thirteen inches; frequents corn fields and pastures; feeds on corn, seeds, and insects; lays from fourteen to twenty or more* yellowish, or greenish grey, eggs, rather smaller than a pigeon's; nest on the ground, in the dry

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* I once saw a Partridge's nest with twenty-one eggs in it.

In VARIETY many,—of WHITE and of RED;—
By Eld often quoted, by Fame often said,
That the young run away with the shells on their head.

margins of corn-fields, and other quiet and grassy places, and little care evinced in its construction. Time of incubation three weeks. Flesh generally esteemed.

The *running away with the shell upon the head*, as mentioned in the text, is sometimes, I believe, in regard to the hatching of Partridges, and others of the *Rasor* tribe, a literal fact: hence, when a person undertakes any thing before being properly prepared for or instructed concerning it, has arisen the common expression, *He runs away with the shell upon his head.*

The *Rufus*, RED-PARTRIDGE, *Greek-Partridge, Red-legged Partridge, Guernsey-Partridge, French-Partridge,* or *Barbary-Partridge*, is rather larger than the common Partridge, bill and legs blood red; chin white, surrounded by a black band spotted with white. Inhabits Southern Europe and the Greek Islands. Several varieties; one found sometimes on the coast of Norfolk and Suffolk. Perches occasionally on trees, and breeds in confinement, which the common Partridge is never known to do.

The *Lagopus*, PTARMIGAN, *White-Game,* or *White-Partridge,* is cinereous, quill feathers white, tail feathers black tipt with white, middle ones white; toes downy; length fourteen or fifteen inches. Inhabits the alpine parts of Europe and Siberia, and common in the Highlands of Scotland. Eggs pale rufous, with red brown spots. It is said to be a stupid bird, and burrows under the snow. A variety of this species was found by Captain Parry in the high latitudes of North America.

The PERCHING-PARTRIDGE inhabits India; it is noted for perching on trees; plumage above pale brown, beneath pale brownish grey.

The *Urogallus*, WOOD-GROUSE, *Cock-of-the-Wood, Great-Grouse, Cock-of-the-Mountain, Caper-Calze, Auer-Calze, Horse-of-the-Woods,* or *Caper Cally*, is nearly as large as a Turkey, being two

There came Ptarmigans, too, from the regions of
snow;—
The Cock-of-the-Wood was e'er ready to crow;—

feet eight or nine inches long; the *male*, which is considerably larger than the *female*, sometimes weighs fifteen pounds, more frequently seven or eight. The two sexes differ greatly in colour as well as in size. The head, neck, and back of the *male* is elegantly marked with slender lines of grey and black running transversely; the upper part of the breast is a shining green, the rest of the breast and belly black, mixed with some white feathers; tail black, with a few white spots. The *female* is red on the throat; head, neck, and back, marked with bars of red and black; belly orange; tail ferruginous, barred with black; length twenty-six inches. Eggs from eight to sixteen, white spotted with yellow, larger than those of the domestic hen. Inhabits the mountainous and woody parts of Europe and Northern Asia, rarely found in this country. These birds, it is said, never pair, but the cock calls the females together by a peculiar cry which he makes perched upon a tree:

"And from the pine's high top brought down
The *Giant Grouse*, while boastful he display'd
His breast of varying green, and crow'd and clapp'd
His glossy wings."

Gisborne's *Walks in a Forest—Spring.*

This bird differs from most of the other species of the genus in his predilection for woods, and in perching on trees. Feeds on the tops of the pine and birch, and also on juniper berries. Flesh, of course, good.

The *Tetrix*, Black-Grouse, *Black-Game, Black-Cock, Heath-Cock, Heath-Fowl,* or *Heath-Poult,* is violet black, tail forked; several varieties; weighs sometimes four pounds; length twenty-three inches. *Female* less than the *male*; her general colour ferruginous, barred and mottled with black, beneath paler. Eggs six or seven, dirty white, blotched with rust colour, size

The voice of the HEATH-COCK was heard loud and shrill;
Many groups of RED-GROUSE, too, rose over the hill.

of those of a pheasant. Inhabits the mountainous and woody districts of England and Europe at large.

According to PENNANT this bird is remarkable for his exultation during the spring, when he calls the hen to his haunts with a loud and shrill voice, and is so inattentive to his safety as to be easily shot.

> "High on exulting wing the Heath-Cock rose,
> And blew his shrill blast o'er perennial snows."
> ROGERS's *Pleasures of Memory.*

The *Scoticus*, RED-GROUSE, *Red-Game*, *Moor-Cock*, or *Gor-Cock*, is sixteen inches long, transversely streaked with rufous and blackish; six outer tail feathers on each side blackish. Colours of the *female* not so dark as the *male*. Eggs from eight to fourteen, like those of the Black-Grouse, but smaller. Inhabits extensive uncultivated wastes covered with heath in Wales, Yorkshire, and the Highlands of Scotland. Found in flocks of thirty or forty in the winter season.

> " Sounds strange and fearful there to hear,
> 'Mongst desert hills where, leagues around,
> Dwelt but the *Gor-cock* and the deer."
> SIR WALTER SCOTT's *Bridal of Triermain, Canto* iii.

The *Cupido*, PINNATED-GROUSE, *Heath-Hen*, *Prarie-Hen*, *Mountain-Cock*, or *Barren-Hen*. The last name given to it in consequence of its being found on the wild tracts of America called *barrens*. This bird is the size of a pheasant; length nineteen inches; weighs three pounds and a half; plumage reddish brown, transversely barred with black and white waved lines; feathers of the head elongated into a crest; on each side of the neck a tuft of feathers; under the neck tufts, in the *male*, are two wrinkled bladders, which the bird can in-

While the Tame-Ducks, and Drakes with their
collars of green,
Recurvate their *tails*, on the waters were seen.

flate; when distended they resemble a middle sized orange; toes naked, pectinated, pale brown. Found in Carolina, New Jersey, and other parts of North America, and particularly on the bushy plains of Long Island. Feeds on huckle berries, the acorns of the dwarf oak and other fruits, and insects. Eggs numerous; nest on the ground; flesh good. In September seen in flocks of two hundred or more. In the year 1791 an act was passed in the United States for the preservation of this bird, in which a fine of two dollars was imposed on any one killing it between the 1st of April and 5th of October. It is become, notwithstanding this act, in America (and it has been rarely, I believe, heard of elsewhere) a scarce and dear bird.

The *Coturnix*, or Quail, has the body spotted with grey; eye-brows white; tail feathers with a ferruginous edge and crescent; seven and a half inches long: another variety much larger. Inhabits the whole of the old world, but not, it is said, America. It is a bold bird, and used in China for fighting, as in this country are game cocks; and at Athens, formerly, quail fighting was as common as cock fighting is at the present time; it was also at Rome a common diversion; it is said, indeed, that in the time of Augustus a prefect of Egypt was punished with death for having served up at an entertainment one of these birds which had acquired celebrity from its victories! It is a migratory bird, appearing in England the beginning of May, and leaving it in October; a few, however, are said to remain throughout the winter; feeds on green wheat and in stubbles; calls nearly all night; the males are taken by imitating them. Eggs eight or ten whitish, laid like the partridge on the ground; they are occasionally blotched with dusky; they are said to lay many more eggs than ten in Italy. Quails are seen in vast flocks in various places contiguous to the Mediterranean Sea

The bright CITRINEL* cried "*Willy winky*" aloud;
The TURNSTONE and KNOT made a part of the crowd;
SEA-SWALLOWS, SEA-CROWS, and some SHEARWATERS came;
And many more SEA-BIRDS not known unto fame.

during their migration. Thousands have been taken in a day in the kingdom of Naples.

The *Virginianus*, or VIRGINIAN-QUAIL, is rather less than the common partridge; it inhabits the woods of America, and perches on trees.

The *Kakelik* has the bill, eye-brows, and legs, scarlet; size of a pigeon; is named from its note *Kakelik;* inhabits China.

The *Major*, GREAT-TINAMOU, or *Great-Partridge*, has a yellow body, legs yellowish brown; bill black, back and tail with black spots; eighteen inches long; roosts on the lowest branches of trees; feeds on worms, insects, and fruits; builds twice a-year, and lays from twelve to fifteen eggs; inhabits the woods of South America. Note a dull kind of whistle, which may be heard a great way off; the natives imitate it to decoy them.

The above birds are all more or less excellent food, and known by the general term *Game*. Many of the tribe are extremely pugnacious, particularly the grouse, partridges, and quails; this arises most probably from the fact that the males are generally more numerous than the females. Some of this genus of birds in cold climates vary in plumage exceedingly during the summer and winter months.

* *Emberiza Citrinella*, or YELLOW-HAMMER, (see Note 20), one of the few birds to which in this work a new name is given, and this is here done from the intractable nature of the old one. Some of our naturalists have described the song of the yellow-hammer as being composed of only six or seven notes, but it is very often many more than six. They are uttered with considerable rapidity, the penult being dwelt upon with much emphasis, "*Willy willy, willy willy, willy willy, wink-ky.*"

There were GANNETS,* too,—Kilda's prime, staple
support;
And some SHAGS* that on ocean delight oft to sport.
With recurvate and flexible beak ting'd with jet,
Appear'd, too, the *Scooper*, yclept AVOSET (37).
The PIGEONS DOMESTIC in large circles soar;
While the COCK and HEN sought out the granary door:
In VARIETY there seen, a numerous tribe,
Whom pen or whom pencil could scarcely describe;
Pugnacity ever their prominent trait,—
Which young and which old, all observant, obey.

(37) **ORDER, GRALLÆ,** (*Linn.*) **AVOSET, the SCOOPING, the AMERICAN, the WHITE.**

The *genus* RECURVIROSTRA, (*Linn.*) or AVOSET, consists of four species, distinguished by a depressed, subulate, recurved bill; pointed, flexible at the top; feet palmate. The chief are the following.

The *Avocetta*, AVOSET, SCOOPING-AVOSET, *Butter-flip*, *Scooper*, *Yelper*, *Picarini*, *Crooked-bill*, or *Cobler's-awl*, is variegated with white and black; length eighteen inches; bill black, recurved at the point, flexible like whalebone; toes webbed about half their length; feeds on worms and marine insects, which it scoops out of the mud or sand; eggs two, white tinged with green, and marked with large black spots, size of a pigeon's. Inhabits southern Europe, and found also in this country.

The *Americanus*, or AMERICAN-AVOSET, has the back black, beneath white; seventeen inches long; inhabits North America and New Holland.—The *Alba*, or WHITE-AVOSET, is white, wing coverts brownish; bill orange; fourteen inches and a half long; inhabits Hudson's Bay.

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* See Part II. for a description of both *Gannets* and *Shags*, under the genus *Pelecanus*.

The Turkey-Cock (38) strutted his ladies beside,
And, with "*Gob, Gobble,*" note, spread his tail feathers wide;

(38) **Order, Gallinæ,** (*Linn.*) **Turkey,** the **Common,** the **Horned.**

The *genus* **Meleagris,** (*Linn.*) or **Turkey,** consists of two species only, distinguished by a conic, incurvate bill; head covered with spongy caruncles, chin with a longitudinal membraneous caruncle; tail broad, expansile; legs spurred. They are as follow:

The *Gallipavo,* or **Common-Turkey,** is above three feet and a half long; domesticated every where; varies much in its colours; its most predominant is black, mixed with shades of white; caruncles red. In its wild state lives in woods, feeding on nuts, acorns, and insects; originally a native of America, where it is now found in great plenty, as well as the West Indies, constituting a great part of the food of the natives, although never reduced by them to a state of domestication: hunting the turkey is a sport in which the savage delights. The cock makes occasionally a peculiar noise, not easily described. In their wild state, turkeys are much larger, more hardy and beautiful, than in captivity. The male wild turkey found in the American woods is nearly four feet long; the female three feet and a quarter. This bird, the young of which are so tender with us, multiplies abundantly in the large forests of Canada, which are a great part of the year covered with snow. Eggs from ten to twenty-five; time of incubation from twenty-six to twenty-nine or more days. The common domesticated turkey is a sluggish, cowardly bird, formidable in appearance only. A common game cock will attack many at once, and, from his activity, frequently comes off unhurt. This bird has an antipathy to red colours. The best turkeys in this country are bred in Norfolk: in breeding, one cock is sufficient for six hens. The hen will cover from nine to fifteen eggs. She is a steady setter, and will sometimes continue upon her eggs until almost starved; hence she should be provided with food and water during her incubation. I cannot

Though inspirer of fear, yet of cowardice son:
The fierce chanticleer is seen often to shun.

enter here into the domestic management of this, nor, indeed, of any other bird; but the reader who is desirous of obtaining information concerning the best method of rearing *domestic poultry*, may consult my FAMILY CYCLOPÆDIA, articles HEN, TURKEY, DUCK, GOOSE, &c. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the turkey is excellent food. This bird was introduced into England during the reign of Henry VIII. It consists of several varieties, which are, very probably, increased by continued domestication.

The *Satyra*, or HORNED-TURKEY, has the head with two horns, callous, blue, bent back; body red, with eye-like spots; caruncle of the chin dilatable, blue, varied with rufous. The female has the head covered with feathers, is hornless and without gular caruncle; feathers of the head and upper part of the neck black-blue, long, incumbent; rest of the body as in the male; rather less than the preceding; inhabits India.

The wild turkey cock is, in the American forests, an object of considerable interest. It perches on the tops of the cypress and magnolia; and, in the months of March and April, at early dawn, for an hour, or more, the forests ring with the crowing of these American sentinels, the watch-word being caught and repeated from one to another for, BARTRAM says, hundreds of miles round. Mr. SOUTHEY, in *Madoc*, vol. i. page 265, thus describes this occurrence:

"On the top
Of yon magnolia the loud *turkey's* voice
Is heralding the dawn; from tree to tree
Extends the wakening watch note far and wide,
Till the whole woodlands echo with the cry."

The wild turkey is said to be, in the American woods, a migratory bird; not, indeed, by the assistance of the wings, but by walking.

I have lately seen the keel of the sternum of a turkey, that

In the GUINEA-HENS (39) harsh and monotonous strain,
"*Go back,*" was repeated again and again.

had a round groove or depression in it, produced, doubtless, by the weight of the bird pressing it strongly on the *perch.*

(39) ORDER, GALLINÆ, (*Linn.*) GUINEA-HEN, GALLINA.

The *genus* NUMIDA, (*Linn.*) or GUINEA-HEN, consists of four species, distinguished by a strong short bill, the base covered with a caruncnlate cere receiving the nostrils; head horned, with a compressed coloured callus; tail short, bending down. The following is the only one which it is necessary to notice:

The *Meleagris*, GUINEA-HEN, *Pintado, Gallina, Galeny,* or *Guinea-fowl,* has double caruncles at the gape, and is without gular fold. The bill is of a reddish horn colour, head blue; the crown with a conic, compressed, bluish-red protuberance; upper part of the neck bluish ash, almost naked; lower part feathered, verging to a violet blue; body blackish or greyish, with round white spots; legs grey brown. Two other varieties; one with the breast white, the other having the body entirely white; twenty-two inches long; makes a harsh unpleasant cry, similar to that mentioned in the text; such sounds it often repeats; it is restless and turbulent, moving from place to place, and domineering over the whole poultry yard. The male and female much alike; the only difference is, that the wattles which are *blue* in the former, are inclining to *red* in the latter; there is also some difference in the noise which the two sexes frequently make. Eggs many, speckled reddish-brown, considerably smaller than those of the common hen: if this bird be left to itself, it will lay its eggs on the bare ground; and is generally in this country a very unfit mother for its own offspring. See the Introduction. Inhabits Africa and America, and is domesticated every where. Flesh excellent.

This genus in many respects resembles the common poultry, like them going in large flocks, and feeding its young by point-

As a coronal now came the Peacock (49) along,
Stalking proudly, but uttered no note fit for song.

ing out their food. In this country, however, these birds are reared much better by the common hen than by their own species. The chicken are so extremely sensible to cold, that exposure to it on damp grass, or the ground, for a very short time, often proves fatal to them.

(49) **Order, Gallinæ,** (*Linn.*) **Peacock,** the **Crested,** the **Iris,** the **Thibet,** the **Japan.**

The *genus* **Pavo,** (*Linn.*) or **Peacock,** consists of seven species, distinguished by a robust, convex bill; head covered with revolute feathers; nostrils large; feathers of the tail long, broad, expansile, and covered with eye-like spots. The chief are as follow:

The *Cristatus,* or **Crested-Peacock,** is the species most commonly seen in this country; it consists of three varieties: one with a compressed crest, spurs solitary;—another having the cheeks, throat, belly, and wing coverts, white;—another with the body entirely white. The plumage and tail of this magnificent bird are adorned with rich and various colours, but the most predominant is green of many different shades. It came originally from India, where it is found, it is said, in vast flocks; but it is now seen in all the temperate regions of Europe, and in almost every part of the new world, and also in Africa. It arrives at maturity the third year. In this climate the female lays only four or five eggs, but, in warmer regions, twelve, and, it is said, sometimes double this number. The time of incubation is from twenty-seven to thirty days. It lives to the age of twenty years, or more. One cock is sufficient for three or four hens. They are granivorous, like other domestic fowls, preferring barley. The young only are esteemed good eating. It is not, however, a very desirable bird for the poultry yard, it being very troublesome and mischievous. The cry which it utters is one of the most harsh and disagreeable that can be

Thus assembled, the Monarch commanded the
 Owl, (41)
To blow loud his trump to the nation of Fowl ;—
Not " *hoo-hoo,*" such as often is heard in the night,
When terror and fancy beget wild affright,
But a note such as never the owl blew before—
Over hill, over dale, went its echoing roar.

conceived. The origin of the white variety is not known, but it is said that it continues white in every climate.

Lord Byron calls the peacock

> " That royal bird whose tail 's a diadem."

And Beattie thus describes it in the *minstrel:*

> " Though richest hues the peacock's plumes adorn,
> Yet horror screams from his discordant throat."

The *Bicalcaratus*, or Iris-Peacock, is brown ; head subcrested ; spurs *two ;* rather larger than the pheasant ; inhabits China. The *Thibetanus*, or Thibet-Peacock, isc inereous, streaked with blackish ; head sub-crested ; spurs *two ;* twenty-five and a half inches long ; inhabits Thibet. The *Muticus*, or Japan-Peacock, is blue mixed with green ; head with a subulate crest ; spurless ; size of the *cristatus ;* inhabits Japan.

(41) Order, Accipitres, (*Linn.*) Owl, the Great, the Long-eared, the Tawny, the White, &c.

The genus Strix, (*Linn.*) or Owl, includes more than eighty species, scattered over Europe, Asia, and America, about half of which are *eared* and half earless ; several are common in this country : they have a hooked bill, cereless ; the nostrils are oblong, covered with bristly recumbent feathers ; head, auricles and eyes large ; tongue bifid ; legs downy ; toes four, claws hooked and very sharp pointed. They fly abroad mostly by

What silence, what stillness, at once was impress'd!
Even zephyr scarce wav'd the green trees' leafy vest.
The FALCON then thus: "It hath pleased the king,
This assembly to-day in his presence to bring;
And wishing sincerely to ALL much delight,
We now to such sports as are pleasing invite."

night, preying on small birds, mice, and bats; sight, *by day,* weak, when the eyes are generally closed; at such times they make short low flights, and may be, without much difficulty, hunted down. At such time, too, the owl is often attacked and insulted by birds which would not dare, at other times, to approach him. All the species are not distinguished by this sensibility to light, some of them pursuing their prey during the day-time.

Owls do, however, for the most part, conceal themselves in some dark retreat during the day; the cavern, the rock, the cavity of a decayed tree, or the holes of a ruinous and unfrequented castle, are their solitary abode, where

> "They hoot from the hollow of their hallowed thrones,"*

and by their harsh notes render the darkness and silence of the night truly hideous and appalling. The weak and superstitious have often foolishly imagined the noise of the screech owl a presage of some great calamity; but the good sense of mankind is rapidly dispelling such idle fancies. OWLS are, beyond question, a very useful tribe of birds. The following are the chief:

The *Bubo*, GREAT-OWL, GREAT-EARED OWL, *Eagle-Owl, Great-horned Owl,* has a tawny body; in other varieties darker, with blackish wings. The head is large; the cavities of the ears large and deep; on each side of the head are two tufts of feathers, resembling horns, two inches and a half long, which the animal can erect or fold down at pleasure; breadth of the

The birds soon divided in groups as they chose;
In the air soaring these, and in water swam those;
To the wood some retir'd; others flew up the dell,
Where a bubbling clear fount over rocks dashing fell.
There was *singing*, the chief: there was billing and cooing;
And many a coy one her lover came wooing.
There was diving, the SHELDRAKE's distinguished for that,
While some WARBLER's sweet notes admiration begat;

wings about five feet; size, nearly as large as an eagle. Inhabits Europe, Kalmuc Tartary, and South America; occasionally met with in this country. Chases hares, rabbits, moles, and mice, which it swallows whole; but the hair, bones, and skin, which resist the action of the stomach, it ejects in round balls, similar to the eagle tribe, termed *castings*. Eggs two, said to be larger than those of a hen; they are mottled like the bird.

WILSON describes an owl under the term *Virginiana*, or GREAT-HORNED-OWL, which he supposes a variety of the preceding: the *male* is twenty inches long, the *female* two feet; its notes, *Waugh O! Waugh O!* remains in America the whole year.

The *Otus*, LONG-EARED OWL, *Horn-Owl*, is a beautiful species, in length fifteen inches; the horns consist of six feathers variegated with black; its general colour is an ochraceous yellow. Varieties of this species found all over Europe and America; more common in this country than the preceding.

The *Stridula*, TAWNY-OWL, *Common-Brown-Owl*, *Ivy-Owl*, *Black-Owl*, *Aluco-Owl*, *Wood-Owl*, or *Screech-Owl*, has the back, head, and coverlets of the wings, a fine tawny red, elegantly marked with black or dusky spots; fifteen inches long; inhabits Europe, America, the West Indies, and this country, and is by far the most plentiful of the owl tribe in England. Breeds in

To enjoy unrestrained of such day the delight,
From pleasure's clear stream each oft sipp'd where he
might.
What excited the smiles of the AQUILINE KING,
Was the noise made by some birds in efforts to sing.
The jetty black RAVEN, now stretching his throat,
Did nothing but croak with a horrible note,
That of ill seem'd portentous, as down the deep dell,
In echoes heart-startling the wavy sound fell.

hollow trees, sometimes in barns; eggs two or three, a dull white. Said to be the only species known to hoot. (*Montagu.*) I think, however, this is doubtful.

> "Heard ye the *owl*
> Hoot to her mate responsive? 'Twas not she
> Whom floating on white pinions near his barn
> The farmer views well pleas'd, and bids his boy
> Forbear her nest; but she who cloth'd in robe
> Of unobtrusive brown, regardless flies
> Mouse-haunted cornstacks and the thresher's floor,
> And prowls for plunder in the lonely wood."
> GISBORNE'S *Walks in a Forest—Summer.*

This owl is an excellent mousing bird; but it will sometimes destroy pigeons.

The *Flaminea*, WHITE-OWL, *Common-Barn Owl*, *Howlet*, *Gillihowter*, *Madge-Howlet*, *Church-Owl*, *Hissing-Owl*, or *Screech-Owl*, is about thirteen inches long; the plumage elegant; body above pale yellow, with white dots; beneath whitish, with blackish dots; almost a domestic bird, inhabiting barns, hay-lofts, and churches; utters a kind of hissing, or harsh and mournful cries, formerly believed in the country to be ominous. Found in Europe, America, and this country. Feeds chiefly on mice, which it swallows whole, ejecting afterwards the bones and

The Cuckoo, as songster, would also essay;
" *Cuckoo, Cuckoo,*" still " *Cuckoo,*" was heard through the day.
In impertinent boldness appear'd the *Tomtit,*—
His notes little more than a *chirp* or a *chit.*
When laughter arose—" Give me *sunflower* seed,"
He cried, " and I'll sing with the lark of the mead."
The saucy House-Sparrow affected a song;
But dissonant noises to sparrows belong.

fur in large pellets similar to those of the *Great-owl.* Eggs four or more, whitish. Breeds in old trees, or even barns. The young wholly white, and the flesh then said to be good. *Montagu* informs us that it never hoots; I think this is a mistake.

"The awaken'd owl
Majestic, slow, on sounding wing sails by,
And rous'd to active life, enjoys the hour
That gives his winking eye-lids leave to rest,
While bright his eye, dim in day's dazzling light,
Now into distance shoots its beams, and guides
The unweildy spoiler to his creeping prey,
Which having seiz'd, again on murmuring wing
He cleaves the tranquil air, and to his nest
Proudly bears home the feast he toil'd to gain;
Then from the bosom of some thick wove tree,
Breathes in dull note his votive strain to night,
Friend of his daring, season of his joy."

Mrs. Opie's *Evening Walk at Cromer.*
Anthology, vol. ii.

The *Brachyotos*, Short-eared Owl, *Mouse-Hawk, Woodcock-Owl*, or *Hawk-Owl*, is about fifteen inches long; it is distinguished from the rest of the tribe by the smallness of its head; on the top of the head above each eye is a tuft of feathers,

Ducks quak'd, *Ganders* hiss'd, and *Geese* cackled aloud;
Many *Rooks*, and some *Crows*, too, were heard 'midst
the crowd.
The *Peacock*, too, scream'd—his harsh notes ever
shock;—
Of his *crowing*, seem'd wondrously proud, too, the *Cock*.
The *Dove's* gentle cooing was heard in the wood;
The *Daw* was desirous to sing if he could.
"*Chink*, *Chink*," cried the *Chaffinch*; the *Owl* gave
a shriek;
And the *Jay* and the *Magpie* attempted to speak.

which it can erect at pleasure; the neck, back, and scapulars, are dusky, bordered with ferruginous, breast and belly whitish, streaked with dusky. Arrives in this country in October, and departs in March; hence, from its arriving at the same time as the Woodcock, one of its names. Supposed to breed in the Orkneys, Norway, and Hudson's Bay. It never perches on trees in this country, but hides itself in long grass or fern.

The *Scops*, or LITTLE-HORNED OWL, and the *Passerina*, or LITTLE-OWL, may also be mentioned; the last is an elegant bird, the smallest of the tribe found in England; size of a blackbird; the head and upper parts are brown, tinged with olive; the former, and wing coverts, spotted with white.

The foreign birds of this tribe are numerous, and of various sizes. I cannot enumerate them. There is, however, in the northern latitudes, a species common to the old and new world, called the *Nyctea* by most ornithologists, which equals in size the largest of the tribe, being two feet long, and having beautiful plumage.

The *Cunicularia* or COQUIMBO OWL, is found in Chili; and is said to dig holes in the ground for a nest for its young, and for its own habitation.

There is also a similar owl called the BURROWING-OWL, found in various parts of the North American continent. In

'Midst this babel, the MONARCH, extending his wing,
Commanded the WARBLERS in sequence to sing.
In a moment was silence; the restless were still;
At distance was heard, in sweet murmurs, the rill.
The REDBREAST looked pleas'd, and began with a twittering;
That excited of FOLLY an insolent tittering.
But he soon became silent as thus o'er the soul,
The warbler's soft notes with much melody stole.

the trans-Mississipian territories this owl resides exclusively in the burrows of the Marmot or Pairie dog; whether at the same time and in the same burrow with the said dog we are not exactly informed; although in other districts, as in St. Domingo, it digs itself a burrow two feet deep, in which the functions of nidification, &c. are performed. Its food is said to be insects; it flies about by day; its notes are *cheh, cheh,* repeated several times in rapid succession. Length nine inches and half; extent two feet. Bill horn colour, the lower mandible strongly notched; iris bright yellow; the capistrum before the eyes terminates in black rigid bristles as long as the bill. General colour of the plumage a light burnt-umber, spotted with a whitish tinge; beneath whitish; inferior tail coverts are immaculate white; eggs two, white, size of the dove's. See a continuation of Wilson's American Ornithology by PRINCE CHARLES BUONAPARTE.

Those who like tales abounding in the horrible, will find one to their taste in *Blackwood's Magazine* for July, 1826, entitled the OWL: the following are the first four lines of it:

"There sat an owl in an old oak tree,
Whooping very merrily;
He was considering, as well he might,
Ways and means for a supper to-night."

I particularly advise those to read it who may not be quite convinced of the impropriety of cruelty to animals.

THE REDBREAST'S SONG.

Motacilla Rubecula.—Linnæus.

Sylvia Rubecula.—Latham.

"Little bird with bosom red,
Welcome to my humble shed!
Courtly domes of high degree,
Have no room for thee and me;
Pride and pleasure's fickle throng,
Nothing mind an idle song."

Langhorne.

THE REDBREAST'S SONG.

Come listen unto me, love,
Beside the eglantine;
Or listen unto me, love,
Beneath the shady pine.

I wish not far to roam, love,
Delighted to entwine,
In some sweet rosy, bower, love,
Thy gentle arms with mine.

I wish afar from noise, love,
From fraud and strife malign,
With *thee*, in peace, to dwell, love;
That wish is surely thine!

I like a quiet home, love,
Where I, and all that's mine,
In one encircling band move,
With thee and all that's thine.

I love to look around, love,
On cherubs that are mine,—
And oh! how sweet the thought, love,
Those cherubs too are thine!

I like a quiet spot, love,
Where all such things combine
To make us truly blest, love,—
A home almost divine. (42)

(42) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) WARBLER, REDBREAST, WREN, GOLDEN-CRESTED-WREN, YELLOW-WREN, PETTY-CHAPS, REDSTART, WHEAT-EAR, WAGTAIL, WHITE-THROAT, &c.

The genus MOTACILLA, (*Linn.*) or WARBLER, to which the REDBREAST, *Motacilla Rubecula,* belongs, comprehends nearly three hundred species scattered over the globe; a very great number of which are natives of Europe, and many of them of our own country; their characteristics are a weak, slender bill; nostrils small; tongue cloven; toes, the extreme one joined at the under part to the middle one at the base. The following are the chief:

The *Rubecula*, RED-BREAST, *Robin*, *Robin-red-breast*, *Robin-Riddick*, *Ruddock*, or *Robinet*,* is too well known to need description. There are three varieties; the common grey, with throat and breast ferruginous; the second entirely white; the third with chin white, wing coverts and feathers variegated. It is remarkable that this bird, which remains, even in North Britain, all the year round, as well as generally throughout England, should migrate from France during the winter months, which it is said to do. It appears in this country to be particularly fond, during the winter season, of the habitations of man; its note is well-known, and its society always agreeable; it sings at almost every season of the year, extremely cold weather excepted.

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* "The nightingale of birds most choice,
To do her best shall strain her voice;
Add to this bird, to make a set,
The mavis, merle, and *robinet*."

DRAYTON, *Muse's Elysium*,
Nymphal, viii.

> "The *Redbreast* swells,
> In the slow-fading wood, his little throat
> Alone: for other birds have dropp'd their note."

It builds in dry banks, beneath tufts of grass; the nest is composed of dead leaves, green moss, and stalks of plants; it is lined with hair. It lays generally five, sometimes more, whitish eggs, with rusty spots. It is found over the whole of Europe, from Norway and Sweden to the Mediterranean.

A redbreast, some years since, frequently perched on one of the pinnacles of the organ in the cathedral at Bristol, and joined the music with its warbling effusions, it is said, for fifteen years successively, till 1787. Some *lines* on this extraordinary fact have been long since published; they were written by the Rev. SAMUEL LOVE, M.A. one of the minor canons, and are well deserving of perusal; I am sorry that I have not room for them.

In very severe weather, a redbreast, many years ago, entered my parlour in Somersetshire, took its station over the window, where some food was placed for it; it remained there about a week, and when the weather became more mild it flew away.

The *Troglodytes*, **WREN**, *Common-Wren*, *Cutty*, *Lady's-Hen*,* *Cutty-Wren*, or *Wran*, has the whole plumage transversely barred with undulating lines of brown and black; on the belly and lower parts it inclines to grey. The tail of this bird is not, as is commonly the case with most other birds, in a straight line with the back, but it rises considerably upwards, so that one of its distinguishing characteristics is a *cocked* tail. It is one of the smallest of our native birds, being less than four inches in length; it inhabits England and Europe at large; it is found also in Asia; it remains in this country throughout every season. Builds a curious nest, for an account of which see the *Introduction;* it may, however, be added here, that such is the instinctive providence of this bird, its nest is generally adapted to the place against or under which it is made; thus, although its usual structure is *green-moss*, yet, if it build against the side of a hay-rick, it is composed of hay; if against a tree covered with white moss, it is made of that material; this is not, however, an *invariable* habit: for I have known a wren's nest constructed of green moss at the edge of the *thatch* of a house, the colour of which was very different from the nest itself: something, doubtless, depends upon the ease or difficulty with which materials can be obtained. *Montagu* says that the lining is invariably feathers; this is not, I think, correct; I believe when made with *green* moss, its lining is, generally, of the same material. Eggs six, eight, or more, whitish, with rusty spots. Feeds on insects. Sings the greater part of the year. It has, besides, a peculiar note, which it often repeats in the spring, similar to *chit*, *chit*, *chit*.

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* Lady's-Hen. My authority for this name is DRAYTON:

> "The hedge-sparrow and her compeer the *wren*,
> Which simple people call our *lady's-hen*."

OWL.

The following lines were written many years since.

TO A WREN,

Which, for many years, built her nest behind an ash tree that overhung my garden.

Little WARBLER! long hast thou
Perch'd beneath yon spreading bough;—
Snug, beneath yon ivied tree,
Thy mossy nest I yearly see,
Safe from all thy peace annoys—
Claws of cats or cruel boys.

We often hear thy *chit, chit,* song
Call thy tiny brood along,
While, in her nest, or on a spray,
The *throstle* charms us with her lay!
Little warbler! chearful wren!
The springtime's come and *thou* again.
Little warbler! thou, like me,
Delight'st in *home* and harmless glee.
What of peace is to be found,
Circles all thy dwelling round;
Here, with *love* beneath the shade,
Thy tranquil happiness is made;
With thy tiny, faithful mate,
Here meet'st resign'd the frowns of fate.
While prouder birds fly high or far,
Or mix them in the strife of war,
Or restless all the world through range,
And, restless, still, delight in change,
Thou mak'st *thy home* a place of *rest*,
Affection, love, and that is best!
Then welcome, welcome, faithful wren!
Thrice welcome to thy *home* again!
Huntspill, Somerset; March 1810.

I believe it may be stated with truth that scarcely a year passed from my earliest infancy in which a wren's nest was not to be found behind the tree alluded to above; and if it be still standing may, I dare say, be found there now. The *redbreast* has been also a very common inhabitant of the banks near.

As I always discouraged my own children in the practice of robbing birds' nests, my garden became a sort of sanctuary for the *Goldfinch*, the *Chaffinch*, the *Thrush*, &c. The goldfinch in particular, became a denizen of it; the garden was by no means a secluded one, being close to a public road; but the birds soon found their security in it: the young goldfinches were destroyed occasionally by cats: this I could not prevent. Candour, however, compels me to state that, with all my disposition for indulgence to birds, I found the *house-sparrow* a very troublesome guest in the garden, and was obliged to prevent its becoming an inhabitant of my house and offices, by giving it no opportunity or place for building its nest. A *rookery* (see my poem, the ROOKERY, in the Somerset dialect,) was also a short distance from it.

This bird and the *redbreast* are supposed in Somersetshire to be great destroyers of spiders: indeed, the following saying is very common there: *if it were not for the Robin-Riddick and the Cutty-Wran, a spider would overcome a man.*

The *Regulus*, GOLDEN-WREN, GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN, *Wood-Titmouse*, or *Tidley-Goldfinch*, is generally considered the smallest of British birds. The crown of the head is singularly beautiful; the crest is composed of a double series of feathers arising from each side, and almost meeting at their points; the exterior are black; the interior bright yellow; between which on the crown, the feathers are shorter and of a fine deep orange; the hind head, neck, and back, green; beneath, brownish white, on the belly tinged with yellow. Nest similar to that of the chaffinch, but lined with feathers; sometimes placed against a tree covered with ivy, but most commonly beneath the thick branch of a fir. Eggs from seven to ten, brownish white. This bird braves our severest winters, and is by no means so scarce as it appears, but from its smallness is seldom noticed. PENNANT says it is found principally on oak trees.

> "Aloft in mazy course the *Golden-Wren*
> Sports on the boughs; she who her slender form
> Vaunting, and radiant crest, half dares to vie
> With those gay wanderers,* whose effulgent wings
> With insect hum still flutter o'er the pride
> Of Indian gardens."

GISBORNE'S *Walks in a Forest—Autumn.*

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* Humming Birds. See note (3), Part II.

Besides these *wrens*, the following are also inhabitants of this country: the *Arundinacea*, REED-WREN, or *Lesser-Reed-Sparrow*, is a migratory bird, appearing in this country the latter end of April, and leaving it in September. It builds in reeds, generally, over water. The *Sylvicola*, WOOD-WREN, or *Green-Wren*, prefers oak and beech woods; it is also a migratory bird, arriving in and quitting this country about the same time as the preceding. The *Trochilus*, YELLOW-WREN, *Scotch-Wren*, *Willow-Wren*, *Ground-Wren*, or *Ground-Huckmuck*, is plentiful in woody places, especially among willows. Nest oval, with a small opening near the top, composed of moss and dried grass, and lined with feathers; eggs six or seven, with rusty spots. The plumage of this bird is very similar to the Lesser Pettychaps. It sings prettily: see Mr. SWEET's letter in the Introduction.

The *Hortensis*, GREATER-PETTYCHAPS, or *Pettychaps*, is above light brown, inclining to olive; beneath dirty white; length six inches. Arrives in this country the latter end of April; its song little inferior to that of the nightingale. Eggs four, dirty white, blotched with brown. The *Hippolais*, LESSER PETTYCHAPS, *Hay-bird*, or *Beam-bird*, is smaller than the yellow wren, length rather more than four inches and half; in plumage it very much resembles that bird, but is not so much tinged with yellow. It is a migratory bird, appearing in this country early, on or before the first of April: its notes consist of two only, *chip*, *chop*, frequently repeated. Nest oval, with a small hole near the top: it is placed on or near the ground. Found in all parts of the kingdom: does not leave it till October.

The *Phœnicurus*, REDSTART, *Redsteert*, *Redtail*, or *Brantail*, is less than the redbreast, but longer and more slender; has the head, the hind part of the neck, and the back, of a deep shining grey; on the fore part of the neck a large black patch; the breast, beneath the patch, an igneous red, growing more faint towards the flanks and belly, which are white. Three varieties. Builds in old walls or rotten trees; eggs five or six, light blue. Arrives in this country in April, quits it in September. It frequents uninhabited houses and solitary places, in which it utters its plaintive notes. The female of this species sometimes sings. See Mr. Sweet's letter in the Introduction.

The *Œnanthe*, **Wheat-ear**, ***Fallow-Finch***, ***Fallow-Smich***, ***White-tail***, ***Snorter***, or ***English-Ortolan***, is distinguished by its hoary back, rump and base of the tail white; length six inches and half. The distribution of its colours varies so as to produce several varieties. Found as far north as Greenland, and as far east as India. Visits England in March, and leaves us in September. Frequents heaths and warrens; breeds in rabbit burrows and under stones; eggs from five to eight, pale blue. They grow very fat, and are caught in great numbers in some of our southern countries previously to their departure; many are sent to London: when potted by the poulterers, are as much esteemed as ortolans on the continent. This bird sings very prettily.

The *Alba*, **Wagtail**, **White-Wagtail**, ***Collared Wagtail***, ***Water-Wagtail***, ***Dish-washer***, ***Wash-Dish***, ***Washerwoman***, or ***Billy-Biter***, inhabits England and Europe generally; its predominating colours deep blue, and white; length about seven inches; remains in this country throughout the year, but migrates, nevertheless, from one place to another; it builds in various situations; in a heap of stones, in a hole in the wall, or on the top of a pollard tree; eggs four or five, spotted with brown. Three varieties. Sings very prettily in the spring. Characterised, as its name imports, by often wagging its tail, particularly when it drinks.

The tribe **Wagtail** includes twenty or more species of this genus, distinguished into ***pied***, ***cinereous***, ***green***, ***water-wagtail***, &c.; or into Indian, African, &c. from their native habitations. Two other wagtails found in this country should also be named. The ***Boarula***, **Grey-Wagtail**, or ***Winter-Wagtail***, a very elegant species, is above dark cinereous, rump greenish yellow, beneath yellow of various shades; its plumage varies in the spring. Visits this country the end of September, and quits it in April. It is seven inches and three quarters long. The

Flava, YELLOW-WAGTAIL, *Spring*, or *Summer-Wagtail*, is in length six and a half inches; the distinguishing and predominating colour of this bird is yellow, mixed in the upper parts with olive green of different shades. It visits us about the time that the Winter-Wagtail departs, and quits this country in September.

I can only mention the following *warblers* known in this country: the *Dartfordiensis*, or DARTFORD-WARBLER;—the *Salicaria*, SEDGE-WARBLER, *Willow-Lark*, *Sedge-Bird*, *Sedge-Wren*, or *Lesser-Reed-Sparrow*;—the *Sylvia*, WHITE-THROAT, or *Nettle Creeper*, is a very common species, visiting all parts of the kingdom about the middle of April; enlivens our hedges with its song.—See Mr. SWEET's letter in the Introduction. The *Sylviella*, or LESSER WHITE-THROAT, visits also this country at the same time as the last; but it is smaller than that bird. The *Rubetra*, WHIN-CHAT, or *Furze-chat*, is migratory in this country: inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa. Three or four varieties: found chiefly among *furze*, as its name imports. The *Rubicola*, STONE-CHAT, *Stone-chatter*, *Stone-Smich*, *Moor-Titling*, *Stone-Smith*, or *Blacky-top*, is found in this country during the whole year. Sings prettily in the spring. Habits the same as the whin-chat. Length five inches and a quarter.

The *Nævia*, or FIG-EATER, inhabits Italy; feeds on figs and grapes, whence its specific name.

For an account of other birds belonging to this genus, see the note on the *Nightingale*; the *Hedge-Sparrow's Complaint*; the *Blackcap's Song*: for the WARBLERS of foreign countries, see the note on that tribe in the second part; see also, in the same part, a note on the *Taylor-bird*.

The *Wagtails*, in Dr. Latham's arrangement, are made a separate genus under the term *Motacilla*, with 25 species; the *Warblers* another, under the term *Sylvia*, with 298 species.

The Lark in a flutter uprose with a bound;
His measure disposed you to dance to the sound.

THE SKY-LARK'S SONG.

Alauda Arvensis.—LINNÆUS.

"From the green waving corn,
The Lark spreads his wings,
And hails as he sings
The fresh glow of the morn."

TOBIN.

He who'd live a happy life,
Let him live as we;
We defy both care and strife—
Are from sorrow free.

We with early dawn arise,
Health awaits our way;
Up we mount the radiant skies
To greet the king of day.

Mirth with sparkling eye and Glee,
Listen while we sing;
Pleasure, too, and Gaiety,
Welcome now the spring.

Love too listens to our song;
Exquisite delight!
Zephyrs bear the notes along,
O'er yon meadows bright.

Come, ye sons of sprightliness!
Join our jocund throng;
These the pleasures we possess;—
Come ye—come along!

He who'd live a happy life,
Let him live as we;
We defy both care and strife—
Are from sorrow free. (43)

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(43) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) SKY-LARK.

The *Alauda Arvensis*, LARK, SKY-LARK, *Mounting-Lark*, *Common-Field-Lark*, or *Laverock*, inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa; feeds on fruit and insects; sings sweetly, soaring in a perpendicular direction in the air, and increasing the volume of its note, as it ascends, frequently, so high as to be scarcely visible. It assembles in vast flocks in winter, when it is found, very commonly, in stubble fields, more rarely in meadows or pastures, at which time it becomes very fat. It builds on the ground, either in tufts of grass or amidst growing corn; lays four or five greenish-white eggs, with dusky confluent spots. This and the woodlark said to be the only birds which sing as they fly; but this, like many other sayings, is most probably incorrect. Body is above varied with blackish, reddish grey, and whitish; beneath reddish white; bill and legs black; throat spotted with black; can erect the feathers on the hind head like a crest. Four or five varieties. Length seven inches. Flesh good. The song of the sky-lark has considerable sprightliness in it: see the Introduction, page 69. Pope thus characterises it:

> "Is it for thee the lark ascends and sings?
> Joy tunes his voice, joy elevates his wings."
>
> *Essay on Man, Epistle* iii.

The lark sings during a much greater portion of the year than most birds; and it is also believed that the female of this species sings as well as the male; yet the fact does not seem with certainty known.

THE GOLDFINCH'S SONG.

Fringilla Carduelis.—LINNÆUS.

"The GOLDFINCH, he,
Whose plumage with the tropic warbler's vies;—
Whose note—exultant chearfulness itself;—
Whose downy dome rivals a *Trochilid's*
In beauty."

From an unpublished Poem.

I've a snug little nest
In a little elm tree;
This nest I am sure
You'll be pleas'd when you see;

It is made with much care,
And is lined so throughout—
It is neatness itself
Both within and without.

But a dear little mate,
She with whom I am blest,
Is the neatest of all things
In this little nest.

Should you pass by in May,
When our little ones come,
Look in, and you'll find
We've a snug little home.

No home like that home,
Where two bosoms impart
Their finest of sympathies
Warm from the heart;

Where friendship with love
Is perpetual guest;
And affection's smooth pillow
A soft heaving breast. (44)

(44) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) FINCH, GOLDFINCH, CHAFFINCH, BRAMBLING, REDPOLE, &c.

The genus FRINGILLA, (*Linn.*) or FINCH, to which the GOLDFINCH, *Fringilla Carduelis,* belongs, consists of about one hundred and fifty species, distributed over the globe, several of which are found in our own country; they are distinguished by a conic bill; tongue truncated; toes three forwards, one backward. The following are the chief:

The *Carduelis,* GOLDFINCH, *Thistle-Finch,* or *Jack nicker,* is too well known to need description. Nine varieties; inhabiting Europe, Asia, Africa, and this country. Sings exquisitely, and is very docile; frequents gardens and orchards, and feeds on various seeds; in the winter assembles together in numbers, feeding at such times on thistle seeds, hence its specific name *carduelis;* builds in apple, pear, elm, and some evergreen trees; nest very neat, (see the Introduction.) Eggs five, white with brown spots. It regularly breeds with the canary-bird, the produce, a mule, termed *Canary-Goldfinch.* The young of the goldfinch before the crimson on the head appears, is called by the bird-catchers *grey-pate.*

Of the *Cœlebs,* CHAFFINCH, *Beech-finch, Horse-finch, Pied-finch, Pink,* or *Twink,* there are six varieties, the principal of which is distinguished by the peculiar sound of *chink, chink,* or *pink, pink,* which it often makes; it has, also, it is said, a song, although a trifling one. It is larger than the goldfinch, and, though having a great variety of colours, is by no means so handsome as that bird; it builds a neat nest, (see the Introduction,) and lays five dirty-white eggs, spotted with brown. Inhabits almost every where in this country, Europe, and Africa. It is said, however, that the males are migratory, frequently leaving the females in the winter even in this country.

Of the *Montifringilla,* BRAMBLING, *Mountain-Finch,* or *Kate,* there are three varieties; inhabits Europe and Siberia; one variety, Asia; frequently seen in this country in the winter, but not supposed to breed here. It is about six inches long; the upper parts are ash-coloured, beneath whitish; the throat, breast, and upper coverts of the wings ferruginous orange. Eggs yellowish, spotted.

The *Spinus,* SISKIN, or *Aberdevine,* has the quill feathers yellow in the middle, the first four without spots; tail feathers yellow at the base and tipt with black; four and three quarter inches long. Three other varieties. Inhabits our own country and Europe generally. Feeds on various seeds, easily tamed, and sings moderately. The *Cannabina,* GREATER RED-POLE, *Red-Pole,* or *Greater-Red-headed-Linnet,* has the body above chesnut-brown, beneath reddish-white, bottom of the breast blood-red in the male, in the female dirty-brown; five and a half inches long. Sings prettily. Inhabits Europe, America, and this country. Gregarious in the winter. Eggs five, bluish white, with purplish specks; makes its nest among furze. See the LINNET'S SONG. The *Linaria, Lesser-Red-headed-Linnet,* REDPOLE, or *Stone-Redpole,* is much smaller than the last; often found in this country. The *Montium,* MOUNTAIN-LINNET, or *Twite,* is black varied with reddish, beneath whitish; rump red. Inhabits Europe and this country; has no song, but merely twitters.

The *Xanthorea* is dusky, rump yellow; primaries edged with green; tail tipped with white; length four inches and half.

Inhabits Rio Janeiro. The bird from which this description was taken was tame, and sang like a canary; and, like other antarctic birds, sang most in the winter. See the *Journal of the Acad. of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. part 2, in the papers, by *Prince Charles* BONAPARTE.

For the *Linota*, or LINNET, see the LINNET'S SONG; for the *Canaria*, or CANARY-BIRD, see the CANARY-BIRD'S SONG; for the *Domestica*, or HOUSE-SPARROW, see the HOUSE-SPARROW'S SPEECH.

The THRUSH, closely shrouded some ivy among
That crept up an elm, was rehearsing her song,
In a soft under-tone, and in murmurs most sweet;
(Such warblings who lives that can catch and repeat?)
Now more loud rose the notes thus the air they
impress'd,
As the songstress still sat in her ivy-hung nest.

THE THRUSH'S SONG.

Turdus Musicus.—Linnæus.

"The Home of Love is where the heart
Is never found repining."

THE THRUSH'S SONG.

The home of love is where the heart
Is never found repining;
The home of love is where we part,
In pain some bliss combining;

That bliss, the child of ardent hope,
Persuading that to-morrow
We shall, with rapture, meet again;—
No room have we for sorrow.

The home of love is that on which
Our thoughts, when absent centre;
And which, when we behold again,
Delighting we re-enter.

The home of love is that where dwell
Two hearts of pure affection;
Whose mutual throbbings ever tend
To dissipate dejection.

The home of love is that where dwell
Hearts kind, sincere, indulgent;
Where dwells besides for all the world
Benevolence effulgent.

Then, hallowed be this ivied bower,
  This home of love endearing,
Where mutual wishes sink to rest,
  With thoughts for ever cheering. (45)

(45) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) THRUSH, MISSEL-THRUSH, FIELDFARE, RING-OUZEL, &c.

The genus TURDUS, (*Linn.*) or THRUSH, now comprehends above two hundred and thirty species, scattered over the globe; the number described by Linnæus was only twenty-eight. Several are inhabitants of this country. Many of the tribe sing exquisitely, among which may be named, the *Missel*, the *Throstle*, or *Song-Thrush*, the *Redwing*, the *Blackbird*, and a vast crowd of foreign birds, including the *Mocking-Bird*. They are distinguished by having the outer toe connected with the middle membrane, as far as the first joint; the bill is denticulated towards the point; they are generally subject to a variation of colour at different seasons of the year. They are baccivorous, but they also eat insects, worms, and snails; none of them feeds on grain. The following are the chief:

The *Musicus*, SONG-THRUSH, THRUSH, *Throstle*, *Dirsh*, or *Mavis*,* has the head, back, and upper coverts of the wings deep olive-brown; throat mottled with brown and white; belly and breast pale yellow, with large black spots; nine inches long. Inhabits the woods of Europe, generally, and frequent in this country. Builds in a low bush, or in an ivied tree; (for a description of the nest see the Introduction.) Eggs five, pale-blue, with blackish spots. In France said to be migratory, in England remains all the year. Remarkably prolific, producing sometimes three different families in a season. Of all the tribes, the *Mocking-Bird*, perhaps, excepted, this is the most accomplished singer; and it sings also at almost every season of the year. There are several varieties in Europe; three or four in America. This, and indeed the whole tribe, are very useful birds in the destruction of snails and other injurious animals, they should, therefore, never be destroyed.—See the Introduction.

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* "So doth the cuckoo when the *mavis* sings."
SPENCER, *Sonnet* lxxxv.

The *Viscivorus*, MISSEL, MISSEL-THRUSH, *Missel-Bird*, *Misseltoe-Thrush*, *Skreech*, *Home-Screech*, *Skreech-Thrush*, *Throstle-Cock*, *Holm-Thrush*, or *Stormcock*, is peculiarly distinguished as being the largest British bird which has any harmony in its voice; it is in length eleven inches; back and upper parts light-brown; neck white, spotted with brown; beneath whitish; bill dusky. Builds its nest generally in the fork of some tree; very often the apple-tree. Eggs four or five, flesh colour, with rusty spots. This is rather a scarce bird in England; I have seen it and its nest, occasionally, in Somersetshire, but I know nothing of its song. It is said, indeed, that it is much louder than, and, by some, esteemed superior to that of the song-thrush. That it begins to sing in January, and continues singing, more or less, till the female has hatched its young, when it is heard no more till the beginning of the new year. If, however, the young be taken, its song continues as before; and if the female be destroyed, it continues in song the whole summer. This experiment, *Montagu* informs us, he tried upon this and several other song birds, and always found it invariable. Feeds upon holly, *misseltoe* berries, whence its name, and insects. It generally sings from the summit of a tree; it is said also to sing before rain and during a storm; hence its name *Stormcock*.

The *Pilaris*, FIELDFARE, *Fieldefare*, *Feldefare*, *Veelvare*, or *Pigeon-Fieldfare*, is ten inches long; back and lesser wing coverts chesnut-brown; neck, breast, and sides, yellowish, streaked with dusky; throat and beneath white; tail dusky-black. Three or four other varieties. This is a migratory bird, visiting this country in flocks in October, and quitting it in April. Feeds here on the fruit of the hawthorn, worms, and insects. Their summer residence said to be Syria, Siberia, and the neighbouring districts. The numbers and appearance of this bird in England seem to be determined by the rigour of the weather; while they are seen here, the inhabitants of the country consider that the severity of the winter is not yet past.

This bird has given rise to an expression, found occasionally in our old writers, and also at the present time in the West:

"The harm is done, and *farwel feldèfare*."

Chaucer, *Troilus and Cressida, Book* ii.

That is, the season is over; the occasion is past; the bird is flown.

"Ye strangers, banished from your native glades,
Where tyrant frost with famine leagu'd proclaims
'Who lingers dies;' with many a risk ye win
The privilege to breathe our softer air
And glean our sylvan berries."

Gisborne's *Walks in a Forest—Autumn.*

The *Torquatus*, Ring-Ouzel, *Amsel*, *Rock* or *Mountain Ouzel*, *Michaelmas-Blackbird*, or *Tor-Ouzel*, is eleven inches long; the general plumage black, beneath greyish; collar white. One or two other varieties. Rather a scarce bird in this country. It is also found in many parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Ring-ouzel is a migratory bird; said to breed in Scotland, Wales, and some parts of the West of England. Nest generally on the ground under some bush, which, and the eggs, are similar to the blackbird's.

"Joyously
From stone to stone, the *Ouzel* flits along,
Startling the *linnet* from the hawthorn bough;
While on the elm-tree, overshadowing deep
The low-roofed cottage white, the *Blackbird* sits
Cheerily hymning the awakened year."

The above lines are from *Blackwood's Magazine*, for March, 1822, with the signature of △. I take the present opportunity of expressing the pleasure which I have often felt on the perusal of the many truly poetical productions of this amiable yet anonymous writer which have, from time, to time appeared in that magazine.

The *Roseus*, Rose-coloured Thrush, *Ouzel*, or *Carnation-Ouzel*, is the most beautiful of the species, and occasionally seen in this country; it is rather less than the blackbird, being in length hardly eight inches. The head, which is crested, neck, wings, and tail, are black, glossed with blue, purple, and green; back, rump, breast, belly, and lesser wing coverts, pale rose-colour, with a few irregular spots. It varies considerably in its roseate shades. More frequent in France; and found also in many other parts of Europe, and also in Asia; visits, it is said, Aleppo, in pursuit of locusts, and thence called the *Locust-bird;* it is held sacred by the Turks; it is also found in South Russia and Siberia, where it is said to breed.

The *Curæus* is the size of the Missel, sings finely, and imitates the notes of other birds; when tame, the voice of man. Inhabits Chili. The *Tinniens*, or ALARM-THRUSH, is above brown, beneath white, breast spotted with black; six and a half inches long; inhabits Cayenne; cries every morning and evening for half an hour with a harsh loud voice, like an alarum bell. The *Arundinaceus*, or REED-THRUSH, is rusty brown, beneath white-testaceous; quill feathers brown, tipt with reddish: three other varieties. Inhabits the reedy marshes of Europe; builds a hanging nest among reeds; eggs five or six, yellowish-white, spotted with brown. The male sings while the hen is sitting; seven inches long.

The *Iliacus*, REDWING, *Swine-pipe*, *Wind-Thrush*, *Windle-Thrush*, *Whinnle-Thrush*, or *Dirsh*, is eight and a half inches long; similar in its general colours to the song-thrush, but having the body, under the wings, and under wing coverts, reddish-orange. This bird is migratory, arriving in flocks in this country in September, and leaving it in the spring. Breeds, it is said, in Norway and Sweden, and is also said to sing in the breeding season equal to the song-thrush of this country; nest in a low bush; eggs six, blue-green, spotted with black. Flesh good.

The *Mindanensis* is the most pleasant singing bird of the island of Java; its song is, at once, diversified and agreeable. HORSFIELD.

For a description of the BLACKBIRD, see the BLACKBIRD'S SONG; for that of the MOCKING-BIRD, see Part II.; for the RED-BREASTED THRUSH, and the WOOD-THRUSH, see also Part II.

THE LINNET'S SONG.

Fringilla Linota.—LINNÆUS.

"The lovely linnet now her song
Tunes sweetest in the wood."

SHENSTONE.

Where dwell pleasures worth possessing?
In yon cot beside the hill!—
Where content, purer love caressing,
Wanders by the crystal rill;

Where affection, strong and fervent,
Opes the door to calm delight;
And where hope, a faithful servant,
Fans the flame of promise bright;

Where domestic peace resideth;
Where, beneath the humble dome,
WISDOM'S self for aye abideth,
There hath HAPPINESS her HOME.

There dwell pleasures worth possessing,
In yon cot beside the hill,
Where content, pure love caressing,
Listens to the crystal rill. (46)

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(46) The *Fringilla Linota,* LINNET, COMMON-LINNET, or *Brown-Linnet*, sometimes called also, I believe, *Grey-Linnet*, is chesnut-brown, beneath whitish; bottom of the breast blood-red in the male, in the female streaked with brown. Size of the *Greater-Redpole.* Eggs five, whitish, with chesnut spots; sings delightfully. It appears that, from occasional variations in its colours, this bird is often confounded with the *Greater-Redpole;* indeed, MONTAGU asserts, that both this and the Redpole are one and the same species. See the description of the Redpole in note 44.

For a description of the GREEN-LINNET, *Loxia Chloris*, see page 175.

THE BLACKBIRD'S SONG.

Turdus Merula.—LINNÆUS.

> "The blackbird whistles from the thorny brake."
> THOMSON.

All cities I hate; nor has splendour or pride
The least of attraction for me;
Give me a retreat by some shady wood-side;
There only I'm happy and free.

Though man for his pleasure may birds in a cage
Remorseless for ever confine;
Though some of our tribe such a prison may please,
May such prison never be mine!

Though man, too, may feed us with daintiest food,
Though gold on our prisons may shine;
I prefer the plain fare that is found in the wood,
For myself and for all that is mine.

You may prattle of cities as much as you please;
Of their splendour and wealth all how fine!
I prefer living here with my mate at my ease;
Where is happiness equal to mine? (47)

(47) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) BLACKBIRD.

The **BLACKBIRD**, *Turdus Merula*, (*Linn.*) *Colly*, *Merle*,* or *Amsel*, is almost too well known to need description. The male is wholly of a deep black when full-grown, at which state it arrives the next spring after the summer in which it is hatched, when the bill and the orbits of the eyes are deep yellow. The female is not so intense a black as the male; nor is the bill so deep a yellow: the difference in the colour of the bills being the principal characteristic of the sex. It is said there are three other varieties of this bird; one with the head white; another with the body white; and the third variegated with black and white; but they are not common in England. It feeds chiefly on snails and worms, and, occasionally, on insects and berries. In a domestic state it may be fed on bread and milk, and bread and water, and even flesh. It is at all seasons a solitary bird. Found almost every where in this country, in the neighbourhood of woods, trees, and hedges; rarely on open heaths or downs. It also inhabits Europe and Asia. Lays five dirty-green spotted eggs. Nest composed externally of dried grass, or moss, and sometimes other materials; plastered inside with clay, and then lined with dried grass. See the Introduction. See also note (43.)

"Take thy delight in yonder goodly tree,
Where the sweet *merle* and warbling *mavis* be."

DRAYTON'S *Owl*.

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* The terms *merle* for the blackbird, and *mavis* for the thrush, are used chiefly by our poets:

"Merry is it in the good green wood,
When the *mavis* and *merle* are singing,
When the deer sweeps by and the hounds are in cry,
And the hunter's horn is ringing."

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S *Lady of the Lake*.

THE HEDGE-SPARROW'S COMPLAINT.

Motacilla Modularis.—LINNÆUS.
Sylvia Modularis.—LATHAM.

I have heard well-pleas'd, attentive,
Many birds their carols sing;
Sweet the power of *song* inventive!—
Power to soothe, to charm a king.

But what power may soothe *my* anguish?
What shall chase *my* grief away?
Mine, not throbs of love's soft languish—
Deeper far my woe than they.

Rapine gives my plaint its feature;
Rapine! 'tis too mild a name
For the deeds which outrage nature;—
Deeds for which *man* 's oft to blame.

The blackbird has a loud and beautiful note; it sings in this country during the spring for about three months; is generally silent the remainder of the year, except that, upon being disturbed, it utters a peculiar shrieking, not easily described, yet well known to the natural historian.

The mode in which this bird, and some others of the thrush tribe separate house-snails from their shells by striking them repeatedly against a stone, deserves notice; the labour which they expend in doing this is, sometimes, almost incredible.

And, as if enough it were not,
While we suffer various ill,
From the kite, hawk, stote* destroying,
MAN our cup of woe must fill!

Nets and traps, deceitful birdlime,
Lays he often in our way;
And he even trains our fellows,
To entice us—to betray.

I my little brood had nurtur'd—
Hope had much for me in store—
Came a boy—a wanton school-boy,
And my darlings from me tore!

Tell me not man's noble nature
Spurns the chains of base control;
Tell me not that such a creature,
Has a great, a generous soul. (48)

(48) **ORDER, PASSERES,** (*Linn.*) **HEDGE-SPARROW.**

The HEDGE-SPARROW, *Hedge-Warbler*, *Titling*, *Dunnock*, or *Motacilla Modularis*, (*Linn.*) is brownish, with blackish streaks; size of the redbreast; builds in box hedges, low bushes, hawthorn hedges, and dry brakes; nest neat; externally of green moss, &c. internally lined with hair; eggs five, light blue. Common to Europe, and very common in this country. The cuckoo generally lays her egg in the nest of this bird.—See note (6.)—The hedge-sparrow has a pleasing song; it remains with us the whole year; feeds on insects and worms, but will also, like the redbreast, pick up crumbs of bread, and seems to prefer being near the habitations of man. It appears that, although the young or eggs of the hedge-sparrow are invariably destroyed whenever the cuckoo's egg is hatched in the hedge-sparrow's nest, this destruction is not effected by the hedge-sparrow, but by the young cuckoo. As the following lines, on *disturbing a hedge-sparrow from her nest*, allude to this fact, I shall be, I trust, pardoned for reprinting them here: they have long been before the public.

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* A species of weasel.

"Little flutterer! swiftly flying,
Here is none to harm thee near;
Kite, nor hawk, nor school-boy prying,
Little flutterer! cease to fear.

One who would protect thee, ever,
From the school-boy, kite, and hawk,
Musing now obtrudes, but never
Dreamt of plunder in his walk.

He no weasel stealing slily,
Would permit thy eggs to take,
Nor the pole-cat, nor the wily
Adder, nor the wreathed snake.

May no cuckoo wandering near thee,
Lay her egg within thy nest;
Nor thy young ones, born to cheer thee,
Be destroy'd by such a guest.*

Little flutterer! swiftly flying,
Here is none to harm thee, near;
Kite, nor hawk, nor school-boy prying;
Little flutterer cease to fear.

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[*] The fact here alluded to is particularly mentioned by Dr. JENNER in a paper published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1788.

THE BULFINCH'S SONNET.

Loxia Pyrrhula.—LINNÆUS.

> "The bulfinch whistles soft his flute-like notes."
>
> SAVAGE.

We live without LAW, and we love without care;
And my mate is delighted my feelings to share.
We live without LAW, and we love without strife;
Oh what is so sweet as the bulfinch's life?
Our LAWS are our FEELINGS, which prompt us to show
Affection to all that inhabits below.
From my mate is ne'er heard the harsh word of command;
But a look, always kind, is the wizard's sole wand.
Son of freedom himself, he's the friend of the free;
No constraint could be pleasing to him or to me.
It is thus he insures the AFFECTIONS' control;
And thus, without LAW, he possesses my soul.
Come, MAN! and learn THOU, from the birds of the grove,
What HAPPINESS waits on such generous love! (49)

(49) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) BULFINCH.

The BULFINCH, (*Loxia Pyrrhula,*) *Red-hoop*, *Hoop*, *Tony-hoop*, *Alp*, or *Nope*, is so well known as to need little description. The head, wings, and tail, are black; the breast and belly red; the upper tail coverts and vent white. The male is distinguished from the female by the superior blackness of his crown, and by the rich crimson which adorns his cheeks, breast, belly, and throat; those parts of the female being of a dirty buff colour. The plumage is, however, variable, some individuals being wholly black; others white, with black spots on the back. About six inches long.

This is one of the few species of birds of which the female also sings. See Mr. SWEET's letter in the Introduction. This bird is so docile that, having but two or three harsh notes, it becomes, by regular education, proficient in music. It may be taught to speak as well as sing. It is found in our woods and thickets throughout the year; seen sometimes in gardens attacking the buds of plums, and generally considered destructive to them; but its object, most probably, is not the bud itself, but the worm in it. Builds in a black or white thorn bush; eggs four or five, bluish white, speckled and streaked with purple.

THE RING-DOVE'S LAMENT.

Columba Palumbus.—(LINN.)

> Dear is my little native vale,
> The RING-DOVE builds and murmurs there.
>
> ROGERS.

Why, alas! am I forsaken?—
If forsaken?—Is it true?—
Still AFFECTION will awaken
Thoughts of Happiness and YOU;—
You—you—you!

How have I in aught offended?—
With disdain why me pursue?
AFFECTION, with my being blended,
Ever dwells, in thought, with YOU;—
You—you—you.

More professing you may find one,—
More imposing—not more true;
But a heart—where meet more kind one,
One that, e'er, will beat for YOU?
You—you—you.

O, return!—return! and gladden
  This poor heart, forlorn, yet true;—
Bid begone all cares that sadden;—
  Here waits Happiness for YOU;
          You—you—you!(50)

(50) ORDER, PASSERES, *(Linn.)* COLUMBA, (*Lath.*) WOOD-PIGEON.

The *Columba Palumbus*, WOOD-PIGEON, *Ring-Dove*, *Ring-Pigeon*, *Queeze*, *Quest*, *Wood-Quist*, or *Cushat*,* is cinereous, tail feathers black on the hind part; primary quill feathers whitish on the outer edge; neck each side white; eighteen inches long; inhabits Europe, our own country, and, occasionally, Siberia; heard sometimes near London, as, in Kensington Gardens. Flesh of course good. It is indigenous to this country, and migrates, most probably, only from the northern to the southern parts. In winter they assemble in large flocks, and constantly resort to woods to roost on the highest trees; on which too they build their nests, composed only of a few sticks, (see the Introduction.) Eggs two, white, exactly oval, and larger than those of the domestic pigeon, with which, and with this species, attempts have been made to produce a breed, but without success. Feeds on grain, seeds, &c.

The cooing notes of the wood-pigeon are somewhat loud, yet hoarse, and uttered very slowly; they seem to be notes of sorrow, and consist principally of such sounds as are conveyed by the words *two, two, two, taffy take two;* they are probably neither more nor less than the natural expressions of pleasurable sensation peculiar to this tribe of birds. See note (7.)

* "Perch'd on his wonted eyrie nigh,
Sleep seal'd the *tercelet's* wearied eye,
That all the day had watch'd so well
The *cushat* dart across the dell."
SIR WALTER SCOTT'S *Rokeby, Canto* vi.

THE BLACK-CAP'S SONG.

Motacilla Atricapilla.—Linnæus.
Sylvia Atricapilla.—Latham.

> "The mimic melodist,
> The **Black-cap** from some tangled sloe bush trills
> His varying song: now as some *merulid's*,
> Now as *Luscinian Sylviad's** aloud
> His note; and now in strain original
> Excites the woods to listen."
>
> *From an unpublished Poem.*

Her loveliness, oh, who shall tell,
Or, of beauty, what is the magic spell;—
And what that affection, pure and fine,
That around the heart unseen doth twine?

And who shall tell the deep feeling now
That is hid in the leaves of the waving bough;—
And who shall tell that breast's delight,
When my song lays it gently to rest at night?

Hush, hush, ye winds! and ye noises rude!
On my love's repose how dare ye intrude;
Begone with thy steeds, thou garish day!
And then I will warble my love a lay. (51)

---

* The Nightingale.

(51) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) BLACK-CAP.

The BLACK-CAP, (*Motacilla Atricapilla,*) *Mock-Nightingale, Nettle-creeper,* or *Nettle-monger,* inhabits England, Europe, and Siberia; it is found also at Madeira, and there called *Tinta-Negra.* It is a migratory bird, arriving in this country in April, and leaving it sometime in the autumn; its winter retreat is not known; it is, however, occasionally seen here in January.

It is between five and six inches long. The head of the *male* is black, back greyish-brown, with a tinge of green; beneath ash-colour. Three or four varieties. The *female* is larger than the male, and has the crown of the head of a rust-colour. Builds generally in low bushes, but sometimes in an old ivy-tree. Eggs four or five, pale reddish-brown, mottled with a deeper colour, sprinkled with a few dark spots; the male and female sit upon the eggs in turn. Feeds on insects, and also on the berries of the spurge laurel, service, and especially ivy. Has, it is said, in Italy, two broods in a year; in this country only one.

The black-cap may with propriety be called the *English Mocking-bird;* it has been heard to sing the notes of the *Blackbird, Thrush, Nightingale, Redstart,* and *Sedge-Warbler,* besides its own peculiar whistle, which is most delightful; it makes also a noise resembling that of a pair of shears used in clipping a fence, which is also the noise made by its young. See the paper by Messrs. *Sheppard and Whitear,* before referred to in the Introduction.

THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG.

Motacilla Luscinia.—LINNÆUS.
Sylvia Luscinia.—LATHAM.

Sweet is the time when all the fields
Their loveliest robes assume;
And sweet the time when lilies shed
Their elegant perfume.

But sweeter far than these the time
When, on his eager wings,
My love returning to his bower
An evening descant sings.

Sweet morn, sweet eve, and sweet the day,
When spring, with budding rose,
Advancing smiles, with liberal hand,
Rich fragrance round him throws.

But, oh! how sweeter far the time
When, at the midnight hour,
My love pours out to me his soul
In notes of magic power.*

For a description of the NIGHTINGALE'S SONG, see the Introduction; for its form, colours, habits, &c. see note (5.)

* It is here presumed that the female, as well as the male nightingale, sings; the fact, however, is doubtful: the reader will, it is hoped, pardon the poetical licence.

GLEE.

We are sons of pleasure,
  We are sons of love,
Joys, beyond all measure,
  Wait us in the grove.

Who so happy as birds,
  Who as birds so free;—
Who so happy as birds,
  Who so happy as we?

We know nought of care,
  Little know of strife;
Tell us, tell us where,
  You find so sweet a life?

None so happy as birds,
  None as birds so free;
None so happy as birds,
  None so happy as we.

THE BANQUET.

> Quæ virtus et quanta, boni, sit vivere parvo,
> Discite:
> Jejunus rarò stomachus vulgaria temnit.
>
> HORAT.

> "The freedom nature gave,
> Her water and her simplest dish."
>
> *Canary Bird's Song.*

Behold now the banquet! And, first, we remark,
That the *banqueting-hall* was a large shady park;
The table a glade—cloth a carpet of green,
Where sweet-smelling shrubs strew'd about might be seen.
The lilac put forth her delights in the vale;
Other spring-flowers' odours were mix'd with the gale.
With encouraging smile nature sat at the feast;
Her converse a charm that enraptured each guest.
The viands were various to suit every taste,
Got together by *magic*, assisted by *haste*:
The dishes, all simple, no surfeit produce;
Nor did wine's effervescence excite to abuse.

There was CORN—*wheat, oats, barley*, for many a FOWL;
There was *grass* for the GOOSE, and a *mouse* for the OWL.
There were *pease* for the ROOK, as an elegant treat;
For the CROW there was *carrion*, he glories to eat.
The BULFINCH's feast was some buds from the plum,
That, torn fresh from the tree, made the gardener look glum.
For PHEASANTS and NIGHTINGALES, *ants' eggs* were found;
And *flies* for the SWALLOWS in numbers abound.
For the SEA-GULL was many a *cock-chafer grub;*
Many WARBLERS pick'd *worms* from the tree or the shrub;
The SEA-BIRDS directed attention to *fish;*
The DUCK partook almost of every dish.
For the SWAN were some *water-plants* pluck'd from the pond;
Of *fish* the KING-FISHERS evinc'd they were fond.
The DIVERS, GREBES, GUILLEMOTS, WATER-RAILS, too,
On the dishes of *fish* all instinctively flew.
For the GOLDFINCH was *groundsel,* a delicate bit;
There was *sunflower-seed* for the saucy TOMTIT.
For the CRANE was an *eel;* for the THRUSH was a *snail;*
And *barley* for PARTRIDGE, for PIGEON, and QUAIL.
For the CUCKOO, an *earthworm*—his greatest delight;
Some HAWKS, of *fowl, flesh,* or *fish,* seiz'd what they might;

But the KESTRIL, a *mouse* to all dainties preferr'd;
While the SHRIKE pounc'd, at once, on some poor
helpless *bird.*
For the HOUSE-SPARROW, *wheat*—he's reputed a thief;
The EAGLE himself got a slice of *raw beef.*
The TURKEY of *apples* partook as a treat,
And the COCK and HEN caught up a *bone of cold meat.*
The DESSERT?—It consisted of only *one* thing:
A clear stream of water just fresh from the spring.

THE HOUSE-SPARROW'S SPEECH.

Fringilla Domestica.—LINNÆUS.

"Go to the INDIAN, WHITE MAN! go—
And learn his OURAH reed to blow—
Compound WOURALI poison—deep
The arrow in the fell juice steep,
Then shoot—the bird, with scarce a sigh,
Will thank thee for such death, and die."

(52) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) THE HOUSE-SPARROW.

The *Fringilla Domestica*, HOUSE-SPARROW, or *Sparrow*, inhabits Europe, Asia, Africa, and this country, and too well known to need description; four varieties; five and three quarter inches long. Builds under the eaves of houses both thatched and tiled; sometimes in ivy, sometimes in other birds' nests; (I have seen its nest in that of a deserted magpie's,) and in and near London on the Lombardy poplar. Feeds on grain and insects; troublesome in gardens; proverbially salacious; breeds many times in the year; eggs six, whitish, dirty spotted ash colour; it is a gregarious, noisy, crafty bird, and not easily caught; very destructive to ripe corn; but, nevertheless, it may be questioned whether, upon the whole, it be not a useful bird: for more concerning it and its nest, see the Introduction.

TO

THE LADIES

Who have so kindly patronized

THE SOCIETY

FOR PREVENTING CRUELTY TO ANIMALS,

THE FOLLOWING

SPEECH OF THE HOUSE-SPARROW

Is respectfully inscribed

BY THE AUTHOR.

Why mute the *Lark* on themes like these;—
Why silent are the *Partridges*;—
Why slumber *Sea-birds* when among
Them death, disasters, stalk—a throng?
Why sleeps *remonstrance,* when proud MAN
Walks forth, the monarch of a span,
And lifts the fatal tube on high,
Then, 'midst our tribe, lets ruin fly?*

---

* The very common practice of firing at large flocks of birds deserves severe animadversion. *Larks, House-Sparrows, Partridges,* and various other gregarious tribes, are too often subjected to this wanton and merciless indulgence in what has been named SPORT. It is difficult in speaking or in writing of such

Why sleeps REMONSTRANCE when to SPORT
He pays a heedless wanton court;—
Wounds many—kills, perchance, a few—
Then calls his dogs with loud halloo?

barbarity, for barbarity it assuredly is, to suit one's expressions to the occasion. There can be, however, I presume, but one opinion as to firing amidst a *flock* of birds, where the chances are that as many or more may be wounded than killed by the unfeeling process. The thought, too, which must naturally arise in the breast of every humane person, that the wounded birds may, and very often do, retire in agony and die a lingering death, or drag on a miserable life, is calculated still more to heighten our disgust and disapprobation. Such reflections as these ought to deter MAN from so wanton an aggression on the happiness and well being of birds: but, alas! his PLEASURE and his SPORT weigh down the beam in opposition to humanity and feeling.

Although I should not desire to see the late *Act of Parliament for preventing Cruelty to Animals* extended so as to include birds, it being a subject on which it is difficult, if not impossible, to legislate, yet I should be very glad to find that, in every *Seminary of Education*, the necessity and duty of treating with kindness and benevolence ALL ANIMATED NATURE were strongly inculcated and enforced. Such kindly feeling exercised towards brutes would inevitably lead to more kindly feelings towards our own species—feelings which cannot be too much encouraged and nurtured; feelings which tend not only to promote the happiness of others, but most essentially our own.

It appears to me that it is chiefly by such means as these, not by penal enactments, that *Cruelty to Animals*, generally, will be most effectually prevented; more especially if those, who are influential in the affairs of mankind, take care to evince those dispositions which it ought to be the aim of our seminaries to implant. But, while the pursuits of HUNTING, FISHING,

The wounded flutter through brake or wood,
With anguish writhe as they seek their food;—
Or, lingering in pain from day to day,
At length they pine and die away;—
Or fluttering, floating on ocean wave,
They find, in some hungry fish, a grave.
These, MAN! the trophies of thy sport![*]
For these thou payest wanton court!

and SHOOTING, are encouraged as SPORTS, and followed accordingly by our MAGNATES, acts of parliament, and, I fear, most other attempts to prevent cruelty to animals, will be comparatively abortive.

Relative to the *destruction of animals injurious to man*, COWPER has stated the case with tolerable precision:

> "The sum is this: If man's convenience, health,
> Or safety, interfere, his rights and claims
> Are paramount, and must extinguish theirs."

When, however, noxious animals are to be destroyed, humanity will prompt us to do the revolting deed in the most expeditious and least painful way. The wickedness and cruelty of destroying any animal, how noxious soever it may be, merely for our *sport* or *diversion*, require no comment.

In Note (17), page 185, it is stated that *one hundred and twenty-nine birds* were killed, or at least obtained, by one shot; but it should also be mentioned, as an appalling fact in the history, that nearly *forty* birds more, either wing-broken or otherwise injured, floated away on the surface of the water. What must have been the mass of pain and suffering produced by this outrage on the unoffending *Pur*; a bird which, after all, though eatable, is by no means a delicacy.

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[*] These are not, however, the only trophies obtained by SHOOTING. The accidents arising to man himself from the use

But what have WE, HOUSE-SPARROWS, done,
The victims both of net and gun!
A race proscribed, for ever we
Are doomed to dire hostility;—
Our various labours set at nought;—
Our heads by the churchwarden bought;—
And every wanton, booby boy
Taught us to worry and destroy.
True, we in fields of corn delight—
Corn is to us most apposite:
In this we only follow nature,
As *man* does, every other creature.
Our sins are trumpeted aloud,
Our virtues wrapt in darkness' shroud.
How comes it that the good WE do
Is kept most carefully from view?

of the FOWLING-PIECE in this country are so many, so continual and disastrous, that it is really surprising, seeing that shooting is not only circumscribed by law, but is, besides, in numerous instances, a very unprofitable employment, how so many persons can find pleasure or amusement in it; but it seems that its comparative unproductiveness, its dangers, and, withal, its inhumanity, are not sufficient to prevent certain persons from following, what I cannot avoid considering, to say the least of it, a silly occupation. When will men act up to the dignity of their nature and their knowledge?

"I would not kill one bird in wanton sport,
I would not mingle jocund mirth with death,
For all the smoking board, the savoury feast,
Can yield most exquisite to pampered sense."
C. LLOYD. *Anthology*, vol. ii. page 237.

We hear not of the many seeds
Which we devour of noxious weeds;—
Of worms and grubs, destructive things,
That each of us his offspring brings.*
What though we snatch a feast of corn,
Or ere its safe in yonder barn,
Yet, is there not enough beside
For MAN and his consummate pride?
 Must all of US to HIM alone
Bow down as though earth were HIS throne,
On which no being may intrude
To mar *his* pleasure or *his* good?
Hath HE of earth the exclusive charter;—
Shall HE for sport or pleasure martyr
All others' weal?—We may admit
His manly port—his talent—wit—
Admit, nay, more, admire them too!
But WE have rights, and so have YOU.
Shall HE, our fellow mortal here,
Presume with US to interfere—
Fix limits to our happiness—
Capriciously curse or bless
As pleaseth his high mightiness?

---

* BEWICK states that "a single pair of *sparrows*, during the time they are feeding their young, will destroy about four thousand caterpillars weekly." They feed their young, also, with many winged insects: in London, it is presumed, chiefly with flies.

The utility of the *Goldfinch* is peculiarly striking, it feeding in the winter, when at large, principally on thistle seed; hence it is called the *Thistlefinch*.

Have WE no sense—no feeling—WE
With ALL THE ANIMATE of EARTH, whom HE
Vainly attempts to govern?—Narrow
The thought, and futile the pretence,
To limit to himself all sense!
He may obtain some even from a SPARROW!
I here, might, *en passant*, complain
For *you* ye WARBLERS in our train;
For *you*, who morning, noon, and night,
The woods, the uplands, meads, delight.
For *you*, who oft in prison dwell,
Depriv'd of social converse there,
Like lonely hermit in a cell,
Perchance to please some lady fair;—
To pick from off her lily hand
Some crumbs, or sing at her command.
But Scotia's BARD hath well in song
Proclaim'd aloud the heinous wrong.*

---

* "Be not the muse asham'd here to bemoan
Her brothers of the grove by tyrant man
Inhuman caught, and in the narrow cage
From liberty confin'd and boundless air.
Dull are the pretty slaves, their plumage dull,
Ragged, and all its brightening lustre lost;
Nor is that sprightly wildness in their notes
Which, clear and vigorous, warbles from the beech;
O then ye friends of love and love-taught song,
Spare the soft tribes; this barbarous art forbear:
If on your bosom innocence can win,
Music engage, or piety persuade."
THOMSON'S *Spring*.

And you yourselves to-day have shown
That 'tis not good to be alone.
Besides,
And here even patience' self derides,
WHO is it that complains of US—
About his corn-fields makes such fuss?
The GREATEST RAVAGER on earth—
MAN; MAN, who, from the earliest birth
Of ancient time,
Hath robb'd and ransack'd every clime—
The ocean, earth, and air, for food!—
In pleasure or in wanton mood
Commands the *Duck*, *Goose*, *us*, to bleed;
Pursues the *Ostrich* on the steed;—
Of all our pangs takes little heed!—
The most omnivorous of all,
What shall we such a being call?—
I might still further amplify
On his august humanity:
Might tell how, *five* times in a year,
He strips the raiment from the goose
And then, as heartless, turns him loose;—*

---

* Since the above was written, I find the following information in the *Morning Herald* of Sept. 15, 1826. "The farmers on the moorlands in this county (Somerset) rear vast flocks of geese, chiefly for the sake of the feathers, which are mercilessly stripped from the suffering bird five times a year. By this practice one pound of feathers is obtained from each bird yearly. Yesterday week was the period of plucking for the fifth time in the neighbourhood of Westmoor near Langport; the geese were immediately afterwards turned out on the common:

How poulterers the feelings rive,
By plucking many a fowl alive,*
You well might shudder while you hear!
How sordid wights will oft pretend
Our native songs to improve, extend;—

the rain descended that night in torrents, and the air was chilly; in consequence of which the flocks, having been divested of their natural protection, suffered so severely, that, on Westmoor alone, from 1600 to 2000 geese were in the morning found dead; and a very considerable number besides are now so languid that their recovery is doubtful."

The plucking of geese for their feathers, even in the most genial season, can scarcely be effected at any time without the production of considerable pain to the animal. A more humane method would be, at a suitable season, to cut off the feathers close to the skin with sharp scissors; by this method the quality of the feathers would be much improved, and the trouble of assorting and dressing the feathers after they are plucked would be thus saved; the down may be afterwards removed by the same means. It is said that when the feathers are removed in this way, the animal is rather benefited than injured by the operation; and that the stumps are thrown off as in natural moulting, and a beautiful new crop of plumage quickly makes its appearance. I am indebted for these hints to the communication of a lady in the *Monthly Magazine*, vol. lvi. page 424.

* This is, I fear, too true, and too common a practice in the metropolis. The reason assigned by a poulterer is that "*it does not tear the flesh*,"—that is, as the living is more tenacious than the dead fibre, the exterior appearance of the fowl after death is, to use a vulgarism, more sightly. When will man cease to agonize the quivering fibres of animals for his silly and luxurious gratification?

How keep us in a putrid bath!
Restrain, I you beseech, your wrath!
That *all* much suffer, many die,
You know, I ween, as well as I.[*]
From Birds, to *Beasts*, to *Fish*, might pass—
Tell how he treats the horse, the ass—
The *bull* how worries—and how eels
He skins alive—what *crimp'd* cod feels.
But such a catalogue—so dire
Would only more inflame your ire.
He boasts his KNOWLEDGE and his ART;
His WISDOM, too;—his generous HEART.
Have WE no knowledge—none, when we
Pass over land and over sea,
From clime to clime,
As constant as the march of time,
Our wants, our pleasures, tastes, to suit?—
Man calls this, INSTINCT *of the brute!*—
A most convenient word is this,
For his sublimity, I wis—
INSTINCT;[†] whenever and where he
Cannot perceive congruity—

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[*] See the Introduction, page 47.

[†] The term INSTINCT has been so long used by our philosophers both prosaic and poetical, that it may be thought somewhat heretical to question its meaning and application. But as TRUTH can never be injured by discussion; and as it is the duty of every one of us to verify, if possible, by actual experiment, the truths which we are taught, in order that our convictions may be rendered, by such experiments, more consistent,

Connexion 'twixt *effect* and *cause*,
He, at one stride, the inference draws—
'Tis Instinct, and beyond all laws.

useful, and lasting, I make no apology for questioning the propriety of the use of the term Instinct when applied to many of the actions of birds as well as to those of other animals, commonly termed the *brute* creation. POPE says,

How instinct varies in the grovelling swine.
Compar'd half-reasoning elephant with thine!
'Twixt that and reason what a nice barrier!
For ever separate yet for ever near!
Remembrance and reflection how allied;
What thin partitions sense from thought divide!

Essay on Man.

So thin, indeed, as frequently not to be divided at all! These lines appear to me to contain a very small portion of philosophy; little that is agreeable to FACT, upon which all true philosophy must be founded: for, according to the doctrine here laid down, *brutes do not reason.* Why not? If REASON *be a process, (not a faculty,) by which different ideas or things are compared, their fitness or unfitness perceived, and conclusions drawn from such comparisons and perceptions,* which I think it is, then it will be found that most brutes, including birds, reason more or less, the intellectual difference between these and man consisting principally in *degree;* the degree is undoubtedly great; but the probability is that, from their inability to communicate many of their thoughts to us, they all know much more than they can show. The terms half-reasoning applied to the elephant are peculiarly inappropriate; the elephant, compared with many other quadrupeds, reasons well; so do the dog, the horse, and many other animals whose actions we have an opportunity of attentively observing, not omitting to name some of the birds.

When the action of a brute animal appears to arise without any apparent process of reasoning, we call it instinct; but if

How knows he this?—Who could him teach,
None but himself hath power of speech?
What! does he think the various sounds
With which our feather'd world abounds
Contain no *meaning*?—This, *his* sense!
His views of *our* intelligence!
He too denies that we have *reason!*
If it would not be out of season,
I'd prove, as easily I can,
That we have that as well as man.

we were better acquainted with the operations of the minds of brutes, it is extremely probable that much of what now seems, and is called *instinct*, would be found the result of processes of reasoning; simple, no doubt, many of them are, but *rational* notwithstanding.

Mr. BOLTON, the author of *Harmonia Ruralis,* informs us that he observed a pair of goldfinches beginning to make their nest in his garden, and that they formed their ground-work with *moss, grass,* &c. as usual; but, on his scattering small pieces of *wool* about the garden, they, in a great measure, left their own materials and used the wool; he afterwards gave them *cotton*, which they took, resigning the wool; he lastly gave them *down*, with which they finished their work, having forsaken all the other articles. Is not this *reason?* But it would be endless to multiply instances in which the actions of birds, and other animals, are evidently regulated by reason.

And here I cannot avoid lamenting that POPE's *Essay on Man* has had, on this account, as well as on some others, so extensive a circulation; it has, I fear, by the method in which it has treated the subjects of MORALS and MIND, considerably obstructed our progress in knowledge: for it is, it appears to me, by far too dictatorial and dogmatic, assuming as true what must still, I think, be considered as *sub judice.* And although we

Of *our* proficiency in art
I shall convince you ere we part.
Look at OUR DOMES inlaid with care;
Such let him fashion if he dare:
Inspect the *Wren's*—the *Oriole's* nest—
The *Goldfinch's*, and all the rest
Of curious make; then say if HE,
With all his cunning nicety,
With all the abundance of his wit,
Can ever thus materials fit?
As for his *wisdom*, Being vain!
Behold it in his SPORTING TRAIN!

may not exactly agree with another poet, a predecessor of POPE, yet PRIOR has treated the subject with more modesty, if not with more truth. Speaking of brutes, he says,

"Evil like us they shun, and covet good;
Abhor the poison and receive the food.
Like us they love and hate; like us they know
To joy the friend, or grapple with the foe.
With seeming thought their actions they intend,
And use the means proportion'd to the end.
Then vainly the philosopher avers
That reason guides our deed, and instinct theirs.
How can we justly different causes frame,
When the effects entirely are the same?
Instinct and reason how can we divide?"
Solomon, Book I.

Yet Pope has divided them!—how lamely we have seen. We conclude, therefore, that *instinct* ought to be used in a much more restricted sense than it hitherto has been; it is by no means applicable to many of the actions of the brute creation: for, in numerous instances, they appear to reason in a similar way to man.

'Mongst which, the savage horde canine,
Kept hungry by sedate design—
Those HOUNDS that, now and then, contrive
To eat their keepers up alive—
I here might aptly introduce
To shew man's wisdom and its use;
But the horrific theme is such
It proves, I fear, almost too much;*
Talk of a heart! prate to the wind!
The storm, the waves, are far more kind!
Have we not *homes* and *children* too?
  How often he doth these destroy,
  In all the glee of savage joy,
I need not here relate to *you.*
Talk of a heart!—what I have said
Will prove what are both *heart* and *head!*
  Of MAN, our MASTER, these are deeds
At which the heart revolting bleeds:
Of man, too, who is said to be,—
Of all God's creatures only he,—
    The HIGHLY-CIVILIZED!
  Of man who, vainly proud of name,
  Asks guerdon of immortal FAME!
By fame such deeds are duly priz'd!
Might I now here advice presume
This Lord's thick darkness to illume,
I'd say—If thy *penchant* be still
The fowls of air, in SPORT, to kill,

---

* The circumstance here alluded to occurred in Somersetshire about twenty years ago.—See my *Observations on the Dialects of the West of England*, article FANNY FEAR.

Go to the INDIAN, white man! go,
And learn his *ourah* reed to blow—
Compound *wourali* poison,—deep
The arrow in the fell juice steep,
Then shoot—the bird, with scarce a sigh,
Will thank thee for such death, and die.*
  And are we not, 'tis painful thus
To speak of what relates to Us—
I here more strictly now apply
The word to sparrows such as I—

---

* We learn from WATERTON'S *Wanderings*, that the BLOW-PIPE, with which the Indians of Guiana shoot their poisoned arrows at birds, consists of a long hollow reed without a joint. The part used is ten or eleven feet long; it is called OURAH: the case consists of another reed called SAMOURAH. The *arrow*, which is made from the leaf of a palm tree, is hard and brittle, and pointed as sharp as a needle. About an inch of the pointed end is dipped in the poison called WOURALI, which destroys life's action so gently that the victim appears to be in no pain whatever. This powerful and fatal drug is a syrupous decoction made from several vegetables, the chief of which is called *wourali*, whence the poison has obtained its name, and from venomous ants and the fangs of some snakes. It is prepared by the Indians with many superstitious rites. With this *blow-pipe* the Indian can send an arrow three hundred feet: he puts the arrow, round one end of which some cotton is wound to resist the air, into the tube, and, collecting his breath for the fatal puff, after taking aim, sends it on the work of death; the birds, it is said, are not at all injured by the poison,—in three minutes the victim generally falls to the ground. The plant called *wourali* is one of the scandent tribe, and allied to the genus *strychnos*.—The particular species does not appear to be yet ascertained.

And are we not a *social* tribe?
We follow man without a bribe;
We leave even corn with him to dwell,
Why, let him, if he's able, tell:
For in his cities we abound
Where corn grows not, nor weeds are found.
"How live you, then?"—I almost scorn
Such question! certes not on *corn!*
We live by worthy means—by wit—
Have I not rightly answered it?—
We *live*—enjoy domestic life—
And though we *sing not*, you may see
And hear us always full of glee;
Nor know we much of care or strife,
Save what proud MAN provides for us.
  From what is said conclude we thus:
That yet, our knowledge cannot scan
The vast design which we, with man,
In nature's universe behold;—
That, though there be some beings bold
Who would prescribe laws to that POWER,
Beneath which we and man must cower,
How often are we set at nought—
Our insignificance how taught?
Yet may we cherish HAPPINESS
And all our fellow beings bless,
By offices of tenderness.—
Here chiefly lie our duties—here
No doubts arise—no mists appear.
Who is it then that has most sense?
HE WHO SHEWS MOST BENEVOLENCE!

The shadows of evening began to grow long;
The monarch once more now demanded a song.
Desirous to know how their notes would combine
He directed the songsters in chorus to join.
With the rich varied concert resounded the glen:
The *Nightingale*—*Blackcap*—the *Thrush*—*Willow-wren*;—
The *Redbreast*—the *Linnet*—the *Lark*, with brisk note;—
The *Stone-chat*—*Wren*—*Goldfinch*—the *Woodlark*—*White-throat*;
Blackbird—*Bulfinch*—the *Swallow*—the *Petty-chaps* loud,
Missel—*Red-pole*, and *Red-start*, were heard 'midst the crowd.
The *Hedge-Sparrow* —*Pigeon*—the *Siskin*—the *Dove*
Were pleas'd to pour out, too, the notes of their love.
Yet who of such sounds may the melody tell
That, on zephyr's light wings, were borne far up the dell?
No artist could copy—no pen could indite!
The BIRDS, too, were now all preparing for flight.
They departed in peace; while the NIGHTINGALE'S song,
'Midst the silence was heard, deep, melodious, and strong:
First, to *Eve* a rich carol of rapture he sang;
Now, with *Love* notes, the woodlands delightfully rang;
Then, to *Day* a "FAREWELL," and a "WELCOME" to *Night*,
He warbled;—the moon in her splendour rose bright.

TO THE WARBLERS*.

> " On every bough the birdis herd I sing
> With voice of angell in their harmonie."
>
> Chaucer, *Assemble of Foules.*

Then hail, ye sweet Warblers! continue to sing!
Ever charm by your presence the redolent Spring!
Be your SONGS ever sacred to PEACE and to LOVE,
And may HARMONY ever be found in the grove.
May the woods, dells, and vallies, resound with your
voice;
And may MAN in your FREEDOM for ever rejoice.
No more may he wantonly death 'midst you send,
But become, as in duty, your PATRON and FRIEND;—
No more in your sorrows delight, nor the crime
Of involving your feathers in treacherous lime;
No more may in prison your peace he beset;
No more may ensnare you with bait or in net.
May he cease to torment you in SPORT with dire pain!
And my song, ye sweet Warblers! shall not be in
vain!

---

* By *Warblers* here the reader will please to understand not only the genus *Motacilla* or *Sylvia*, but also the whole tribe of *Song-birds.*

TO THE SPRING.

Solvitur acris hyems gratâ vice Veris et Favonî.

Horat.

"The birds, in new leaves shrouded, sung aloft,
And o'er the level seas spring's healing airs blew soft."

BOWLES'S *Hope.*

AND hail, too, thou blithe and thou green-budding SPRING!
May the BIRDS on thy branches continue to sing;
May thy groves and thy meadows with beauty be crown'd;
And may plenty, content, 'midst thy dwellings abound;
With THEE, TRUTH and NATURE, may rapture e'er dwell,
While echo, in bird notes, is heard in the dell;
And the song of the plough-boy, all buoyant with hope,
Descend in soft cadence from upland or slope.
May man, far remov'd from the city and strife,
Possess, and with *Thee*, a *refin'd rural life.*
May thy roses e'er blossom—thy pleasures ne'er fade,
And love e'er enjoy the delights of thy shade!
Then hail, thou blithe, bright, and thou redolent SPRING!
May the BIRDS on thy branches for ever still sing!

END THE FIRST PART.

ORNITHOLOGIA.

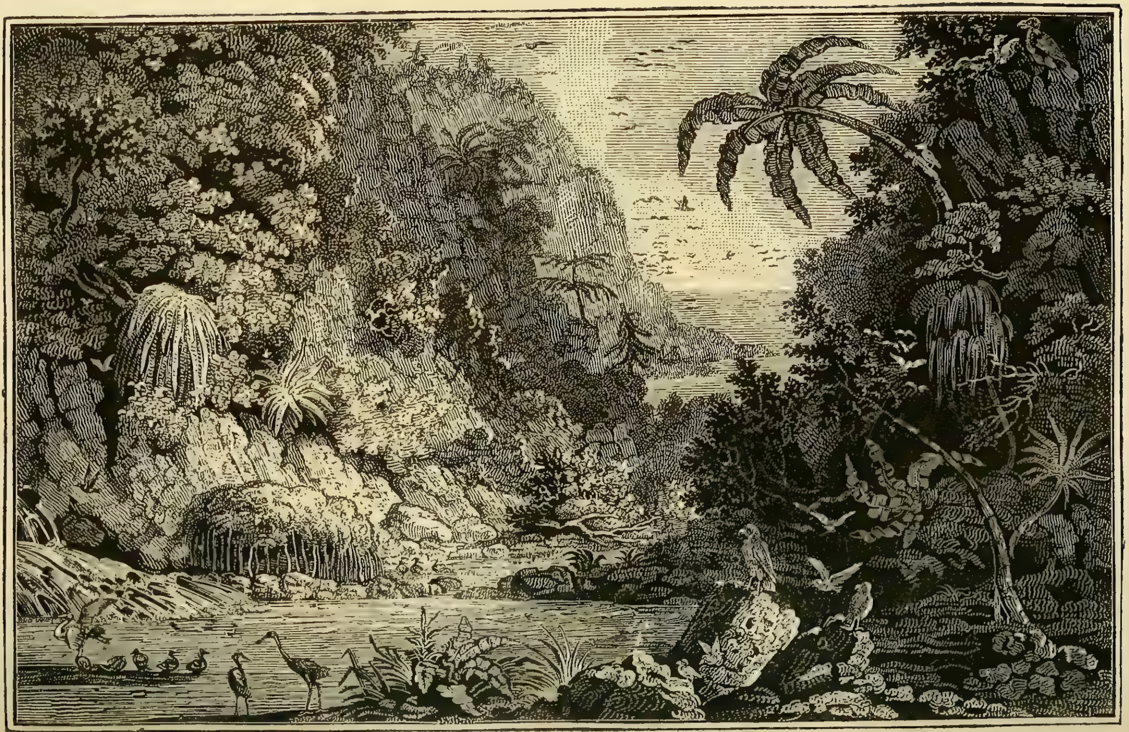
PART THE SECOND.

FOREIGN BIRDS.

La Zone Torride.

"C'est là que la nature, et plus riche et plus belle,
Signale avec orgueil sa vigeur éternelle :
C'est là qu' elle est sublime."

Saint Lambert.

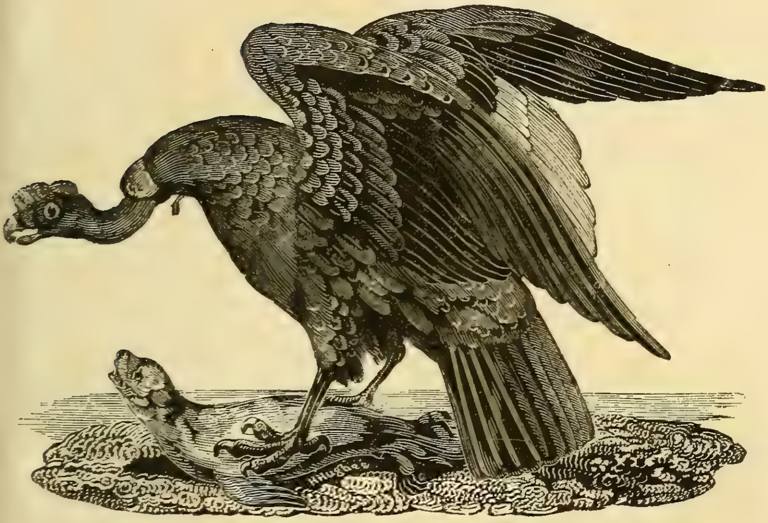


H. Hughes, del. et sculp. J. Johnson, typ.

Ornithologia.

PART THE SECOND.

FOREIGN BIRDS.



VULTUR GRYPHUS:

OR,

THE CONDOR.

ORNITHOLOGIA.

PART THE SECOND.

FOREIGN BIRDS.

Once more of the Princes of Air—yet once more,
Ere my harp in the hall to its place I restore.—
Once more shall the Warblers be heard, and their song
Once more waken Echo the woodlands among.
O for powers that, more worthy the theme of my lute,
Shall an audience insure and attention strike mute.
Might I catch, Bard of Erin! a note of thy strain,
My song, although humble, shall not be in vain.
Yes, Moore! to the sounds of thy rapturous *Lyre*
At distance I listen, but dare not aspire:
O lend me thy mantle, or toss me thy pen;
Or prompt me to sing of the Birds of the Glen.
What delight had pervaded the Eagle's throng'd court,
Swiftly bore to the Vulture the tongue of report:
His pride took alarm as on Andes he sate;
He arose, flapp'd his wings, and assum'd much of state.
To declare to the empire his wishes august
He delay'd not—thus ran the high will of the Just:

Be it known to all Birds, beneath moon, beneath sun,
That, ere the next hebdomad race shall be run,
The Autocrat, monarch of Andes, the world,
Where vulturid banners have long been unfurl'd,
Apart all excuse and aside laying care,
A day of delight with his people will share.
It was, too, a command that no bird, on that day,
Should dare his rapacity once to display;
Who, offended in this, in his fulness of might,
The monarch indignant would dash from his sight.
Proclamation being made of the VULTURID's pride,
By swift pinion'd report it was borne far and wide;
Announc'd, too, through many and distant a clime,
The Isle of assembly, and also the Time:
To delight, and to birds, long the Island well known;
There often the Vulture reclines on his throne;
Not the throne of the *Andes*, but one where the ocean
Can be heard or in wild or in pleasing commotion:
Where a DELL that, uplifting its bold, rocky side,
High, massive, would seem the fierce storm to deride.
His bolts shoot the thunder oft sportively there,
And echo, again and again, awakes fear.
Below, at the base of a mountainous rock,
That hath long stood of earthquakes and tempests the shock,
Rolls ocean, whose waves, as they break on the shore,
Send up through the dell a loud murmuring roar:
As you pass its wild, picturesque windings along,
You will hear many BIRDS both in loud and soft song;

While now dash over rocks, now in eddies soft glide,
The crystalline waters those windings beside.
What though there no *Luscinian Sylvia's*[*] sweet throat,
Nor of *Cuculid* Scansor *canorous*[†] the note,
Yet the WARBLERS abound, and, in many a lay,
Their amorous passion are pleas'd to display;
But their plumage will charm you as much as their airs;
Delight's gayest daughter—such plumage is theirs.
Embossom'd this DELL in that Isle of the west,
Which Nature herself hath abundantly bless'd.
The whole a wild garden, where plants, shrubs, and trees,
Grow in richest luxuriance; the evening breeze,
Delighted to fan you, bears odours along,
While the *Polyglot Thrush*[‡] fills the woods with his song.
Heat a monarch is there; the rich, tropical fruit
In its splendour stands forth, varied tastes to salute.
Of the BEAUTIES of FLORA which rise in their pride,
'Midst the rocks fertile crannies—the streamlets beside,—
Or in soil rich and deeper adown thrust their root,
While their corols of splendour on lofty stalks shoot,
Description, how vivid soe'er, becomes faint,
When attempting such tropical glories to paint.

---

[*] Nightingale, *Sylvia luscinia.*

[†] Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus.*

[‡] The Mocking-bird, *Turdus polyglottus.*

Yet we may not neglect the fair DAHLIA[1] bright;
Nor her the fam'd CACTUS[2] who blooms in the night;
Nor the FUCHSIA,[3] with red and with frutescent stems,
And with florests depending like bright crimson gems;
Nor the ALOE who sits on the rock all serene,
Unfolding her leaves long and thick and pale green.
Midst the lords of the forest, PIMENTA[4] grows there,
Whose beauty and fragrance what need to declare?
The BOMBAX[5] abundant in pods of fine silk;—
The COCOS[6] nutricious with nuts full of milk;
The red THEOBROMA[7] delighting in shade,
From whose rich oily nuts the fam'd chocolate's made;—
The hard SIDEROXYLON[8] also there grows;—
And the lofty MAHOGANY[9] round her arms throws;—

---

[1] *Dahlia superflua* and *frustranea*. They are now common in this country.

[2] *Cactus grandiflorus*. This plant produces a very magnificent flower of an exquisite odour; it is said to open at sunset, and to continue in perfection only *six hours*. It belongs to that class of plants called *Cereus*.

[3] *Fuchsia coccinea*.

[4] *Myrtus pimenta*, or ALLSPICE TREE.

[5] *Bombax heptaphyllum*, SILK COTTON TREE, or *Ceiba*.

[6] *Cocos nucifera*, or COCOA NUT TREE.

[7] *Theobroma cacoa*, or CHOCOLATE TREE.

[8] *Sideroxylon lycioides*, or WILLOW LEAVED IRON WOOD.

[9] *Swietenia mahogoni*, or COMMON MAHOGANY.

While the strange INDIAN TREE[1] sends her shoots
to the ground;
For the WARBLERS a harvest her fruit will be found.
The CABBAGE TREE PALM[2] lifts her broad leaves on
high;
The FAN-PALM[3] and TAMARIND[4] also grow nigh;—
The GUAIACUM[5] rich in medicinal gum;—
The FERNS[6] plants perennial and lofty become;
The leguminous CASSIA,[7] with flowers of gold,
Is pleas'd her pale foliage in light to unfold:
While many trees more, in their floral robes dight,
Aroma diffuse on a zephyr wing light;
For the BIRDS they would seem almost purposely made;
As *food* some, and others delightful as *shade*.

---

[1] *Ficus Indicus*, or WILD FIG. A similar tree is called in the East Indies BANYAN. See a more extended poetical description of this tree in SOUTHEY'S CURSE of KEHAMA; see also MILTON'S PARADISE LOST.

[2] *Areca oleracea.*

[3] *Corypha umbraculifera.*

[4] *Tamarindus Indica.*

[5] *Guaiacum officinale.*

[6] Polypodium arboreum, or *Cyathea arborea*, a perennial fern rising twenty feet high, with leaves that give it the appearance of a palm tree.

[7] *Cassia fistula.* The fruit of this tree is a woody, round, blackish pod, about one inch in diameter, and sometimes two feet long; it contains a sweet pulp, which is used in medicine as a gentle purgative. It is a native of both the Indies; some persons have imagined this to be the *wild honey* eaten by St. John in the wilderness—but surely without reason.

With the PINE-APPLE,[1] rich in a nectarine taste,
The clefts of the rocks in abundance are grac'd.
There, too, RICINUS[2] broad-leav'd, whose reniform
seed
Secretes in its cells panaceas indeed;
There the CAPSICUM[3] rich in pods pungent and red;
And there the BANANA[4] uplifts too her head.
Thus the LORD of the MOUNTAIN (¹) was pleas'd to
invite
His vassals to meet on this day of delight.

(¹) **ORDER, ACCIPITRES,** (*Linn.*) **CONDOR, VULTURE, the KING, the AURA, the CRESTED, the AQUILINE.**

The genus VULTUR, (*Linn.*) or VULTURE, to which the CONDOR or CONDUR, the *Vultur gryphus,* belongs, and to which

---

[1] *Bromelia Ananas.*

[2] *Ricinus Communis,* or *Palma Christi.* An annual plant, growing plentifully in the West Indies; it is of very quick growth, and sometimes attains the height of sixteen feet. From its seed is obtained the well known and safe purgative called CASTOR OIL.

[3] The *Capsicum Annuum, baccatum,* and other species of BIRD PEPPER, are well known pungent stimulants, from some of which is obtained the CAYENNE PEPPER.

[4] The *Musa sapientum,* or BANANA TREE, is supposed to be a native of Guinea, whence it was carried to the West Indies, where it now flourishes most abundantly. The stalks of this plant are peculiarly porous; the root alone is perennial, the rest dying down to the ground every year; the leaves are two yards long and a foot broad. The fruit is in the form of a cucumber, four or five inches long. The weight of a bunch of bananas usually exceeds twelve pounds; when ripe it is eaten by all ranks of people either raw or fried.

"Now haste to the dell of enchantment away!"
In vigour arose and exclaim'd the fresh day.

the term *Vulture* in the text is designed emphatically to be applied, comprehends above thirty species scattered over the warmer parts of the globe: some of which inhabit America, some Asia, some Africa, and some other parts of the world, but none of them is found in this country. They seem to be peculiarly inhabitants of warm climates, chiefly, it is presumed, because putrid flesh, on which they feed, is there most plentiful.

They are distinguished by a straight bill hooked at the point; the head is bare of feathers, with a naked skin in front; tongue cleft; neck retractile; sense of smell generally acute. They are a rapacious tribe, feeding on carcasses, however putrid: unless pressed by hunger they seldom attack living animals. WATERTON, indeed, informs us, in his *Wanderings in South America*, that Vultures never live upon live animals; that in Paramaribo the laws protect them, and that in Angustura they are as tame as domestic fowls. They are bold, gregarious, fly slowly, unless very high in the air. The following are the chief:

The *Gryphus*, CONDOR, CONDUR, or *Zumbadore*, is of prodigious size, measuring, with the wings extended, it is said, fourteen, sixteen, or even more, but other accounts say ten or eleven, feet. Mr. BARROW wounded a Condor at the Cape of Good Hope, whose wings, when spread, measured ten feet and one inch. The bill is black, four inches long, point white; caruncle on the crown as long as the head; the throat is naked, the bottom of which is surrounded with a white ruff composed of long fine feathers of a hairy texture; the lesser wing coverts wholly black, middle ones the same with greyish white ends, forming a bar when closed; the greater, half black and half white, divided obliquely; three first quills black; secondaries white, tipped with black; back black; tail black; legs stout, reddish brown, and those as well as the claws, which are three quarters of an inch long, are said to be covered with scales.

The birds heard his voice, ere the glorious sun
Had his race o'er the waters in radiance begun.

The chief of this description is from Dr. LATHAM, who derived his information from an actual specimen; but the scarcity of this bird renders its accurate description difficult, and it also varies in different authors.

It is said to build under the protection of the highest rocks; eggs two, white; the nest must be, of course, large, but its size, or of what materials composed, does not seem with accuracy known. Inhabits South America, Asia, some parts of Africa, and probably other regions of the globe; it appears to be a bird of enormous power, but is, in every country, extremely rare.

This rapacious animal has attracted the notice of travellers, who have, perhaps, too often given their descriptions of it an air of exaggeration. Dr. GRAINGER, author of the *Sugar Cane*, and other *Poems*, has alluded to it under the name of *Zumbadore*, so called, he informs us, in consequence of the hideous humming noise which it makes:

"The swift wing'd *Zumbadore*
The mountain desert startled with his hum."
Sugar Cane, Book I.

In a note to the poem it is said that this bird, one of the largest and swiftest known, "is only seen at night, or rather heard, on the desert tops of the Andes." This, however, is not, by later accounts, correct: the condor frequents the sea-coasts during the rainy season in the evening, remains there all night, and returns in the morning to the mountains. From the extreme rarity of this bird its natural history is not yet well understood; further information concerning it is every way desirable.

It has been conjectured that the *Roc* mentioned in the fables of the Arabian writers is this bird.

The *Papa*, KING-OF-THE-VULTURES, or *King-Vulture*, has the nostrils caruncuIate; crown and neck naked; body above

The dews, rich in odour, from balmy shrubs fell;
And the Mocking-Bird warbled his night song's
farewell.

reddish buff, beneath yellowish white; quills greenish black; tail black; craw pendulous, orange coloured. It is about the size of a turkey; but is chiefly remarkable for the odd formation of the skin of the head and neck, which is bare; this skin, which is of an orange colour, arises from the base of the bill whence it stretches on each side to the head, thence it proceeds like an indented comb, and falls on either side according to the motion of the head; the eyes are surrounded by a red skin, and the iris has the colour and lustre of pearl. This species has been placed at the head of the vulture tribe on account of the superior beauty of its external appearance; and it is said that it is no other way distinguished from the genus; yet Waterton asserts that when the king of the vultures is present, the inferior species do not attempt to touch the prey till the *king* is satisfied!—There might be some truth in this without attributing *kingly* qualities to the bird: the inferior species might know experimentally that his majesty would not suffer them to touch the prey till he himself is sated. It attacks, it is said, only the weaker animals, devouring rats, lizards, serpents, and every kind of excrement and filth; flies very high; a native of America.

The *Aura*, Carrion-Vulture, *Aura-Vulture*, *Turkey-Vulture*, or *Turkey-Buzzard*, has the body greenish brown; quill feathers black; bill white. Another variety with body black; quill feathers brown; bill cinereous; size nearly of the preceding; feeds on carrion, putrid carcasses, on which it gorges, and crocodile's eggs, &c.; sense of smell extremely acute; inhabits the United States, the West Indies, South America, and Africa; it is also said to be found in some parts of Europe; seen in large flocks; nest midst the recesses of solitary swamps in hollow trees; eggs from two to four, dull dirty white or cream

The SCANSORS, chief PARROTS, were dissonant loud;
Many GOAT-SUCKERS' (²) notes, too, were heard from
the crowd.

colour, splashed with chocolate, mingled with black; they are in length two inches and three quarters, breadth two inches. This is a peaceable and harmless bird, never offering violence to any living animal; in the southern states of North America, from their usefulness, they are protected by a law which imposes a fine on those who wilfully deprive them of life.

The *Cristatus*, or CRESTED-VULTURE, has the body blackish red; head crested; breast rufous; smaller than the last, but extremely active and voracious; feeds on hares, rabbits, foxes, fawns, and fish; found in some parts of Europe.

The *Percnopterus*, AQUILINE-VULTURE, or *Pharoah's-Chicken*, has the plumage white, except the quill feathers, which are black; the edges hoary; length two feet. Another variety, with the body reddish-ash, spotted with brown; inhabits Egypt, Syria, and Persia. It is encouraged in Cairo to devour dead carcasses; and in Palestine to destroy the mice which swarm in the fields. In Egypt it was formerly a capital crime to destroy one of these birds.

> "The place is tainted—and behold
> The *Vulture* hovers yonder, and his scream
> Chides us that still we scare him from his banquet."
>
> SOUTHEY'S *Thalaba*, vol. i. page 105.

(²) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) GOAT-SUCKER, the EUROPEAN, the VIRGIAN, the GRAND, &c.

The genus CAPRIMULGUS, (*Linn.*) or GOAT-SUCKER, comprehends about forty species, chiefly inhabitants of America; one the *Caprimulgus Europæus*, or EUROPEAN GOAT-SUCKER, is found in this country. The characteristics of the tribe are, bill short, hooked at the end; upper mandible beset with a row

Where, 'midst shades dark and sombre, and shrouded
from sight,
They shrank from the glances of strong piercing light.
They often, whenever the parrots were still,
Exclaim'd "*Willy come go!*" or now, "*Whip, whip,
poor will!*"
"*Who are you?*" was another monotonous lay;
And another repeated, "*Work, work, work away!*"
Whilst a "*Ha!*" "heard aloud, in the wild, distant
wood,
Oft repeated, yet fainter, spake murder and blood.

of stiff bristles; mouth wide; tongue small, pointed, entire; toes connected by a membrane as far as the first joint; tail feathers ten. These birds seldom appear in the day-time, unless when disturbed, or in dark cloudy weather, but wander about in the evening in search of insects, on which they feed. They lay two eggs, which they deposit on the naked ground.

The *Europæus*, GOAT-SUCKER, *European Goat-sucker, Nocturnal Goat-sucker, Night-Hawk, Dorr-hawk, Churn-Owl, Goat-Owl, Wheel bird*, or *Night-jar*, is ten inches long; mouth excessively wide; plumage beautifully diversified with black, brown, ferruginous, and white, speckled and dashed with cinereous; beneath ferruginous brown. Inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa. During summer, from May to September, frequents the woods of this country; feeds chiefly on beetles and moths; hence is, most probably, a very useful bird. The absurd story formerly related of it, namely, that of sucking goats, whence its name, no longer credited. Its note is similar to the sound of a spinning wheel, besides which it has a sharp squeak. Eggs whitish, marked with light brown and ash colour, larger than those of a blackbird; these are laid on the ground amongst fern, heath, long grass, &c. It begins its flight in the dusk of the evening in

Of the BELL-BIRDS was heard too the loud clanging
note,
As far distant it seem'd upon ether to float.
What clamour arose as the BIRDS flew along!
No time was there now for the soothing of song;
The sounds more like Babel assaulted the ear;
The SEA-BIRDS like dense clouds dark rolling appear.

pursuit of the larger insects, particularly the *Scarabæus Melolontha*, or cock-chafer, &c.

"Hark from yon quivering branch your direst foe,
Insects of night, its whirring note prolongs
Loud as the sound of busy maiden's wheel:
Then with expanded beak, and throat enlarged,
Even to its utmost stretch, its customed food
Pursues voracious. Thus from Zembla's deep
On warmer climes when herring armies pour
The living tide of plenty; to the sun
With gold and green and azure many a league,
When ocean glitters like a field of gems
Gay as the bow of heaven, and burns by night
In every billow with phosphoric fire;
Their march innumerous foes attend. Behold
In light wing'd squadrons, *gulls* of every name
Screaming discordant on the surface hang,
And ceaseless stoop for prey. Lo! *gannets* huge
And *ospreys* plunging from their cloudy height
With leaden fall precipitate, the waves
Cleave with deep dashing breast, and labouring rise
Talons and beak o'er-loaded."

GISBORNE'S *Walks in a Forest.*

I have thought it most advisable not to separate these lines, so descriptive of several facts in the natural history of birds,

Come hither DESCRIPTION! assist to me sing,
The birds who this day met their VULTURID KING.
He from high *Chimborazo** or *Cataracts*† came,
(Or from that lofty giant envelop'd in flame,

although the last portion of them relate to the **OSPREY**. See note (1) of the first Part, article *Ossifragus.*

The *Virginianus,* **VIRGINIAN GOAT-SUCKER**, *Short-winged Goat-sucker, Night-hawk,* and sometimes *Whip-poor-will,* is brown, transversely varied with grey-brown and a little ash-colour; beneath reddish-white; eight inches long; makes a disagreeably loud noise all night long; eggs green, with dusky spots and streaks; inhabits North America.

The *Grandis,* or **GRAND GOAT-SUCKER**, is nearly two feet long; the gape of the mouth so large as readily to admit a man's fist; inhabits Cayenne.

The *Indicus,* a small elegant bird, and the *Asiaticus,* or **BOMBAY GOAT-SUCKER**, inhabit India. The *Novæ Hollandiæ,* or **CRESTED GOAT-SUCKER**, is found in New Holland; the *Longipennis,* or **LEONA GOAT-SUCKER**, at Siena Leone.

The goat-suckers being chiefly American birds, exhibit in that continent, of course, the greatest variety in their manners and notes. WATERTON, in his WANDERINGS, mentions five kinds that have each a peculiar set of notes. One utters, "*Who are you, who, who, who are you;*" another, "*Work away, work, work away;*" another, "*Willy come go;* another, which is also common to the United States, "*Whip poor will,*

---

* The highest peak of the *Andes,* and, as far as is hitherto known, the highest mountain in America.

† The cataracts of the *Andes* are unrivalled: that of *Tequendama* dashes, at two bounds, down a perpendicular height of six hundred feet, with an astounding roar, into a dark and frightful abyss. The tremendous cataracts of *Maypuré* and *Apuré* may also be mentioned.

The fierce *Cotopaxi*;* or some rocky chasm—
Some frightful *Quebrada*† that nature in spasm
And wild agony bore,) ere the morning's first beam;
His hum startled forest and mountain and stream.

whip, whip, whip, poor will;" and another, a large bird, the size of the English wood-owl, "*Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha*," which sounds are uttered like a person in deep distress—the departing voice of a night-murdered victim. Suppose yourself in hopeless sorrow, beginning the above sequence of sounds with a loud note, each succeeding one being lower and lower till the last is scarcely heard, and pausing a moment between every note, will convey, according to WATERTON, an idea of this bird's noise. The plaintive cries of all these are uttered throughout the night.

As WATERTON has not mentioned the specific names, these birds cannot be identified; but we learn from Dr. LATHAM's work, that two species of goat-suckers have obtained the name of *Whip-poor-will*. The *Vociferus*, however, seems to be that to which the name is most properly applied.

The *Vociferus*, WHIP-POOR-WILL, or *Whip-poor-will Goat-sucker*, is nine and a half inches long; gape very large; mouth

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* A notable VOLCANO of the *Andes*, of which, it is said, there are nearly *forty* scattered over that mountainous chain.

† The *Quebradas* of the *Andes* are immense chasms by which many of the mountains are separated from each other; some of these chasms are nearly a mile deep, and their sides almost perpendicular; they are, nevertheless, frequently adorned with trees, shrubs, and flowers. Natural, as well as artificial bridges, are occasionally seen over these deep and yawning lacerations; sometimes, too, a torrent rolls down their winding jaws, adding, of course, to the sublimity of the scene: nor does the occasional presence of the Condor detract from the astounding picture.

With beak black, and bent at the tip ting'd with white;
With an eye that commands both the day and the
night;
With wing nervous, expansive, and tint of black-brown;
With legs and feet squamous, caruneulate crown;
Throat naked; back dark; and with claws black and
strong;
Evincing the signs that to power belong;—
Of the mountainous desert the lord, in whom fear
And imperial command both united appear;—
He look'd round from his ROCK, over sea, over shore,
And over the DELL too—that proud ZUMBADORE.

beset with long, thick, elastic bristles; plumage above variegated with black, pale cream-brown, and rust-colour; back darker; breast and belly mottled, and streaked black and yellow ochre. Eggs two, marbled with dark olive. Inhabits many parts of North America, most plentifully in Kentuckey. The notes of this bird are similar to the words *whip-poor-will*, whence it has obtained its name; it is heard very often in the night. Rarely seen during the day, unless attendant on its young. Feeds on moths, grass-hoppers, and insects. In Pennsylvania it is a migratory bird, proceeding to the South in winter.—WILSON.

WATERTON says that the goat-suckers of South America perch *longitudinally* on trees, and not *crosswise* like other birds; this is also stated by Wilson in regard to the *Americanus*, or NIGHT-HAWK, called in Virginia, and some of the Southern districts of the American States, a *Bat*.

According to WILSON, the only goat-suckers found in the United States are the preceding, WHIP-POOR-WILL; the *Carolinensis*, or CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW; and the *Americanus*, or NIGHT-HAWK, which is, I believe, the same as the *Virginianus*, described above; these are all migratory birds.

Around him the *Vultures* obediently flew:
The CRESTED, the AURA, and AQUILINE too:
And even the PAPA of beautiful dyes,
With *Ingluvies* pendulous, glossy pearl eyes—
Of royal external that homage might bring—
A *subject* was here, although elsewhere a KING.
The PARROTS* presented a numerous host;
The PETRELS were few, just arrived on the coast.
The HUMMING-BIRDS (3) gaudily glow'd midst the throng,
In their green and their gold as they flutter'd along;

(3) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) HUMMING-BIRD, the RED-THROATED, the SUPERCILIOUS, the LEAST.

The genus TROCHILUS, (*Linn.*) or HUMMING-BIRD, consists of above ninety species, found, chiefly, in the tropical regions of America and the West Indies; indeed, it has been stated, that no humming-bird has ever been seen in the old world; one, however, has been mentioned as an inhabitant of the Cape of Good Hope. About half the species has a curved, the other a straight bill, which is subulate, filiform, and tubular at the tip, the upper mandible sheathing the lower; the tongue is also filiform, the two threads coalescing, tubular. This genus is the least in size of the race of birds. They feed, it is said, on the nectar of flowers; but there is reason for believing, from the statement of WILSON in regard to the *Red-throated-humming-bird*, that they feed also on small insects. They are almost continually on the wing, fluttering like bees, and making a humming noise, whence their name. Of all animated beings, these birds are the most elegant and brilliant; their plumage

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* For a description of the Parrot, see forward.

Of nectar they sipp'd from the sweet smelling flower;
Or, seizing, abridg'd the small insect's brief hour,
There was one of large size, of rich plumage, Red
Throat,
Distinguished by chirping a grass-hopper note;

being adorned with innumerable shades of colour, in which the emerald, the ruby, and the topaz are gracefully intermixed. Their nest is curiously constructed, and attached sometimes to two leaves, or to a single twig of the citron or orange; it is peculiarly neat and small; eggs two, white, about the size of a pea; time of incubation twelve days.

It has been said that these birds cannot be tamed; this is, however, in regard to some of them at any rate, a mistake. Wilson mentions having kept one of the *Red-throated Humming-birds* in confinement for three months. It is said, nevertheless, that they are neither shy nor suspicious; that they are caught by the Indians on limed twigs, and that, when taken, they instantly expire, and are afterwards worn as ear-rings by the Indian ladies. That some of them should expire when caught on *limed* twigs is not to be wondered at when the delicacy of these birds is considered; but that they instantly expire if taken with suitable precaution, is quite incredible. Some have been kept alive by syrups for a few weeks; and, probably, were we better acquainted with their proper food, their preservation alive would be more certain and continued. That they sometimes feed on insects is confirmed by Waterton, and it is said that small insects have been found in them on dissection. The following are all we can name:

The *Colubris*, or Red-throated Humming-bird, is three inches and half long; back, upper part of the neck, sides, under the wings, tail coverts, and two middle feathers of the tail, a rich golden green; tail and wings a deep brownish purple. Nest one inch in diameter and the same in depth. Eggs two, white. From the drawing given of it in Wilson's *American*

And one of form tiny might, too, be there seen,
Much less than a bee, deck'd in elegant green;
But of gay, eastern Sun-Birds, (4) in robes bright
and fair,
And of manners congenial, not one was found there:

Ornithology it appears similar to the goldfinch's, but, of course, much smaller and neater. The note of this bird is a single chirp, not louder than the grasshopper. It has been kept in confinement in the United States for months: it is a mistake to suppose that it feeds only on the nectar of flowers; it feeds also on insects. This bird is very fond of the flowers of the plant called *Balsamum noli me tangere,* or Touch-me-not. It is found in most of the warm and tropical regions of America. This description is taken from Wilson's work; the bird is, I suspect, the *Moschitus,* or Ruby-necked Humming-bird of some other writers.

The *Superciliosus,* or Supercilious Humming-bird, is one of the largest of the tribe, being nearly six inches long, and inhabits Cayenne. The *Minimus,* or Least-Humming-bird, is green; smaller than several of our bees, hardly a quarter of an inch long; weighs about twenty grains; found in Brazil. See note (42,) part 1, article *Golden-crested-Wren.*

(4) Tenuirostres, *Cinnyridæ,* (Vigors); or, to anglicize the terms, Cinnyrid Tenuirosts—Sunbirds.

The genus some time since established by Cuvier, and denominated by him Cinnyris, has been lately brought into notice in consequence of Mr. Vigors having arranged it as a *sub-family* in his Tenuirostres; and also by his having excited the public attention to this group of birds in his late *Lectures* at the *Zoological Society.* According to their habits, size, and the statements of Mr. Vigors, they appear to supply the place in the *old* world, of that numerous, airy, and splendid race of birds in the *new,* so well known and so much admired under the

They the odorous groves of the Orient Isles,
And the Hindoostan gardens, e'er greet with their smiles.

name of HUMMING-BIRDS, or, to anglicize a *Vigorsean* term, TROCHILIDS. They are now, it seems, called in this country by the trite name of SUNBIRDS. By whom this term was first applied, or for what reason, I do not know, but presume from the splendour of their colours. One of their characteristics (besides of course being *Tenuirosts*) is that of feeding on the *nectar* of flowers. The genus *Cinnyris* is included in TEMMINCK's *Nectarinia.** I have not been able to obtain so satisfactory an account of it as I could wish. The following species I, however, find described in Dr. LATHAM's great work.

The *Longirostra,* (LINN. TRANSACT. vol. xiv.) *Certhia Longirostra,* (*Lath.*) or LONG-BILLED-CREEPER, is five inches long, the bill an inch and half; the tongue is long and missile; crown and back behind light green; back, wings, and tail, dusky, edged with olive green; neck before, and breast, white; belly and vent pale yellow; legs bluish. Found in Bengal, where it perches on the rich flowers of Indian plants, and darting its tongue into the calyx extracts the sweets. Inhabits also Java, where it is called *Prist Andun.* The Java species is larger and more brightly coloured.

The *Affinis* (LINN. TRANSACT, vol. xiii.) *Anthophagus Oliva-*

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* Since this volume has been in the press, my attention has been called to the splendid work of M. TEMMINCK on BIRDS, now publishing at Paris in large folio, with finely executed engravings, accurately and most carefully delineated, and coloured after nature. This work is esteemed by our ornithologsts as a very valuable addition to the science: as far as I have had an opportunity of examining it, I can bear my willing testimony to its merits, particularly in regard to the engravings. The *Manual of Ornithology* of this author is, of course, well known to the scientific. Both works are written in the French language.

From the Papuan Isles in magnificence bright,
Came the PARADISE BIRDS (⁵) at once lustrous and
light;

ceus, (*Lath.*) **OLIVE-HONEY-EATER**, or *Olive-Creeper*, is four inches long; bill half an inch long, black; plumage above dull olive-green, inclining to brown on the forehead and crown; beneath grey-brown; around the eyes whitish; quills and tail brown, with an olive-green tinge; the two outer feathers white at the ends; legs pale brown. Inhabits Madagascar and Java. Individuals found in the last-named place are olive, variegated beneath with dull brown-grey; outer tail feathers white at the ends.

Many others of this tribe of birds have been exhibited, by far more splendid and smaller than these; but I have at present no means of obtaining an accurate description of them.

(⁵) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) BIRDS OF PARADISE.

The genus **PARADISEA**, (*Linn.*) or **BIRD-OF-PARADISE**, consists of twenty species; the bill is covered with a belt of downy feathers at the base; feathers of the sides very long; two of the tail feathers naked. They are inhabitants of New Guinea, the Papuan Islands, or Islands of the Indian ocean. The following are some of the most remarkable. The habits of this tribe of birds do not, however, appear to be yet very accurately known.

The *Apoda*, or **GREATER-PARADISE-BIRD**, is of a chesnut colour; neck beneath green-gold; feathers on the sides longer than the body; two middle tail feathers long, bristly. Another variety of a smaller size. Inhabits the islands near New Guinea; feeds, it is said, on moths and butterflies; flies, it is also reported, in flocks, with a leader at the head, making a noise like the thrush. The strangest and most

Of whom hath cupidity artful and bold,
Yet in mystery's cant, many falsities told.

improbable tales were formerly related concerning this bird. Thus sings Camoens:

> "The golden birds that ever sail the skies,
> Here to the sun display their shining dyes;
> Each want supplied on air they ever soar;
> The ground they touch not till they breathe no more."
> The Lusiad, by *Mickle.*

From their food being moths and butterflies, and, perhaps, the nectar of flowers, they are doubtless a good deal on the wing; but there appears no reason whatever to suppose that their manner of incubation and resting is different from other birds.

The most remarkable features of this species are about forty or fifty long feathers, which spring from each side below the wing, and, mingling below the tail, augment the apparent size of the animal, without adding any thing to its weight. It is about the size of a thrush, but its feathers make it appear much larger than that bird. In some parts of India, the feathers fetch a great price, being worn as ornaments of dress.

These birds were formerly brought to this country without feet, the policy of the foreign dealers in them most probably induced the abstraction of those signs which lead very often to the habits and manners of the bird. Hence also the more ready belief in the tales propagated concerning them; and hence, too, the specific name *Apoda*, without feet, very improperly applied to these birds by European naturalists.

The *Regia*, or King-of-the-Birds-of-Paradise, is a chesnut-purple, beneath whitish; a green-gold band on the breast; from five to seven inches long; solitary. Inhabits the same countries as the last.

The Honey-Guide-Cuckoo, from Africa came;
The Flamingo(6) look'd gay in his garments of flame.

(6) **Order, Grallæ,** (*Linn.*) **Flamingo,** the **Red,** the **Chilese.**

The genus **Phœnicopterus,** (*Linn.*) or **Flamingo,** consists of two species distinguished by having a naked toothed bill, bent as if broken; the feet are four-toed, palmate, the membranes semicircular on the forepart.

The *Ruber,* **Flamingo,** or *Red-Flamingo,* is a very remarkable bird, with a body less than that of a goose; but when erect, is six feet high from the tip of the toe to the bill, which is seven inches long, partly red, partly black, and partly crooked; it perpetually twists its head round when eating, so that the upper mandible touches the ground. The legs and thighs are slender, not thicker than the fore-finger of a man, yet two feet long; the neck is also slender, and three feet long. From this extraordinary shape, it is able to wade in water to the depth where its food is to be found. The feet are webbed, though it seldom uses them for swimming. Length from bill to tail four feet four inches. The plumage is not less remarkable than its figure, much of it being of a bright flame-colour, whence its name. Found both in the new and old continents, but in not more than about forty degrees either north or south from the equator. It is found on almost every shore of the Mediterranean—Spain, Italy, &c.; and in every district of Africa, to the Cape of Good Hope; in South America, and the West Indies. The nest is made of earth, rising about twenty inches above the water, which always covers its base; the top of this is a little hollowed out for the reception of the eggs, which are two, white, size of a goose's, upon which the female sits and hatches, perched, as it were, upon her rump, with her legs hanging down like a man sitting upon a stool. This peculiar posture is necessary during her incubation, in consequence of the very great length of the legs. The young never exceed three in number.

The TAYLOR-BIRD, (7) too, left his leafy sew'd nest,
To pay his respects to the KING of the WEST;

These birds are gregarious, and are occasionally tamed in their native climates, and mingle with other poultry, but they never thrive in such a state. They afford a fine down, equal to swan's down; flesh, by some persons, esteemed.

The negroes of Africa hold this bird in superstitious veneration; hence they do not permit it to be destroyed, although, from its numbers and its noise, it is extremely troublesome. It feeds on shell-fish, aquatic insects, and the spawn of fish.

The Flamingo was well known to the ancients under the name of *Phœnicopterus;* its flesh was a dish among the luxurious Romans; Apicius is said by PLINY to have discovered the exquisite relish of this bird's tongue, and a new method of seasoning it!

> "Evening came on: arising from the stream
> Homeward the tall *Flamingo* wings his flight;
> And when he sails athwart the setting beam
> His scarlet plumage glows with deeper light!"
>
> SOUTHEY'S *Curse of Kehama—the Separation.*

I take the present opportunity of expressing the great pleasure which the perusal of that highly imaginative and melodious poem, the *Curse of Kehama,* has afforded me.

The *Chilensis,* or CHILESE-FLAMINGO, has the quill feathers white; bill covered with a reddish skin; head subcrested; five feet long from the bill to the claws. Inhabits Chili.

(7) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) TAYLOR-BIRD.

The TAYLOR-BIRD, *Taylor-Wren*, *Taylor-Warbler*, *Motacilla Sutoria*, (*Linn.*) or *Sylvia Sutoria*, as it is called by Dr. LATHAM, one of the numerous genus WARBLER, is a very small bird, being only about three inches and a half in length, and weighs only about, it is said, three sixteenths of an ounce; the plumage above is pale olive-yellow; chin and throat yellow;

The restless BLACK-SKIMMER (8) swept often along;
And the BARBET (9) was heard with his turtle-dove
song.

breast and belly dusky-white. It inhabits India, and particularly the Island of Ceylon; it constructs a very curious nest by sewing the edges of one or more leaves together, so as to form a conical repository for its eggs and young; the eggs are white, not much larger than what are called ants' eggs. For further particulars concerning this bird's nest, see the Introduction.

(8) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) SKIMMER.

The genus RHYNCHOPS, (*Linn.*) or SKIMMER, consists of one species only,

The *Nigra*, BLACK-SKIMMER, *Breaker, Cutter*, or *Skippog*. The bill is straight, the upper mandible much shorter than the under; size of the black guillemot; length eighteen inches; breadth three feet; tail forked; body blackish, beneath white; front and chin white; wings with a transverse white band; legs red. Another variety tawny. This bird is perpetually flying about and skimming over the water, out of which it scoops small fish with its lower mandible. Inhabits all South America, and the southern parts of North America, and also the East Indies. Nest a mere hollow in the sand; eggs three, white, with large round blackish spots, others like pale Indian pink. They lay near to each other, in societies of from 15 to 20 pairs; half a bushel of eggs have been collected in New Jersey within the compass of half an acre; they have a fishy taste, but are nevertheless eaten. Voice harsh and screaming. This bird is migratory in New Jersey.

(9) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) BARBET, the BEAUTIFUL, the YELLOW-CHEEKED, &C.

The genus BUCCO, (*Linn.*) or BARBET, comprehends twenty-nine species, chiefly inhabitants of Guiana, and found almost universally in warm climates. The bill is strong, straightish,

There too was seen, hovering over the shore,
The IBIS (¹⁰) that Egypt once pleas'd to adore;
The CURLEW in SCARLET with richest tints glow'd,
And the CANVASS-BACK-DUCK on the waters proud
rode :

nearly covered with bristles ; it is a very stupid genus. The following are all I can notice :

The *Zeylonicus*, or YELLOW-CHEEKED-BARBET, is five and a half inches long; sits on trees, and murmurs or coos like a turtle-dove, but louder. Inhabits Ceylon.

The *Elegans*, or BEAUTIFUL-BARBET, is green, head and chin red, edged with blue; quill feathers brown; throat and breast yellow, the latter spotted with red; belly yellow, spotted with green; size of a sparrow. Inhabits the shores of the Amazon. The *Tamatia*, or SPOTTED-BELLIED BARBET, is above tawny brown, beneath tawny white, spotted with black; six and a half inches long. Inhabits Cayenne and Brazil. Flesh insipid.

The *Philippensis*, a native of Java, has its notes conveyed by the word *Ingku*. HORSFIELD.

(¹⁰) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) IBIS, the EGYPTIAN, the WOOD, the SCARLET, the GLOSSY, &c.

The genus TANTALUS, (*Linn.*) or IBIS, consists of more than thirty species scattered over the warmer climates of the globe. The bill is long, subulate, rounded, and subarched; face naked; tongue short, broad; jugular pouch naked; feet four-toed, palmate at the base. The following are the chief:

The *Ibis*, or EGYPTIAN-IBIS, has the face red, bill pale yellow; quill feathers black; body whitish-rufous. From thirty to forty inches long. Inhabits, in vast numbers, the lower parts of Egypt. This bird, so faithful in its native country, was made the emblem of it. Its figure, which is wrought on all the ancient Egyptian monuments, represents Egypt, where divine honours

The Egret, the Great, and the Little, milk white,
Their pinions display'd 'midst a splendour of light.
'Mongst the Eagles, the Crested a denizen here,
Were many rapacious whose looks begat fear.

were paid to it by the superstitious inhabitants. This bird feeds on locusts, caterpillars, and serpents; and, it is said, even after it is satiated, it still continues occupied in destroying these noxious animals. The intention, therefore, of the Egyptian rulers in rendering this bird sacred, was, doubtless, to preserve and to mutiply so useful an animal. So sacred was it held, that dried skeletons of it have been found preserved as mummies. As a drawback from this statement, it should be also observed, that many other birds, such as storks, kites, and vultures, are hostile to serpents, and the figures on their hieroglyphics do not appear sufficiently defined, so that this kind of bird may be determined with exactness: certain, however, it is, that formerly, in Egypt, the killing of this bird was held as a capital crime.

The *Loculator*, or Wood-Ibis, has a bluish face; the bill reddish, nine inches long; the body white; legs, quill, and tail-feathers, black. Two other varieties. Three feet long. Inhabits New Holland, and the warmer parts of America; slow in flight, and stupid; feeds on fruit, fishes, and reptiles; flesh good.

The *Leucocephalus*, or White-headed-Ibis, has the head, neck, and body, white; bill and face yellow; legs pale flesh-colour; rump with long rosy feathers; the largest of the tribe. Inhabits India.

The *Ruber*, Scarlet-Ibis, *Scarlet-Curlew*, or *Red-Curlew*, is a beautiful bird, found in most parts of America, within the tropics; the whole plumage a rich glowing scarlet, except the extremities of the four outer quill feathers, which are of a deep steel blue; length twenty-three inches; sits on trees, but lays its greenish eggs on the ground. The young birds, when first

The social and singular ANI (11) was there,
In whose nest many females obtain oft a share.
The fleet COURIER-PHEASANT ran swiftly along;
With a serpent the CRESTED immers'd in the throng.

hatched, are said to be black, then grey, then whitish, and, lastly, scarlet.

The *Igneus*, or GLOSSY-IBIS, has the head and neck black; bill and legs green; body varied with glossy-blue, blackish-green, green and claret; beneath dark rufous; quill and tail feathers green-gold; thirteen inches long; inhabits Russia: was once shot in Cornwall; it has also been seen in Norfolk.

(11) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) ANI, the LESSER, the GREATER, the VARIED, the WALKING.

The genus CROTOPHAGA, or ANI, consists of four species, all natives of South America; they have a compressed semi-oval arched bill, carinate on the back; upper mandible angular at each edge; nostrils pervious. They are as follow:

The *Ani*, or LESSER-ANI, is blackish violet, feet formed for climbing; thirteen and a half inches long; gregarious, many females laying in the same nest, each taking care of its own brood; eggs sea-green, spotted towards the ends; feeds on fruits, seeds, worms, and insects; picks out the acarus, or tick, from the backs of cattle infested with it, for which purpose it is said they will lie down spontaneously. The *Major*, or GREATER-ANI, is also blackish-violet, the feathers edged with green; quill feathers dusky green; feet scansorial like the last; length eighteen inches; docile and easily tamed; inhabits Cayenne. The *Varia*, or VARIED-ANI, is varied with black and red; feet scansorial; eleven inches long. The *Ambulatoria*, or WALKING-ANI, has the feet ambulatory; except in the structure of the feet, is like the last; inhabits Surinam.

Rice-Buntings, and Turnstones ingenious abound;
And Bee-Eaters, (12) Beef-Eaters, (13) some were
there found.

(12) Order, Picæ, (*Linn.*) Bee-Eater, the Common, the Indian.

The genus Merops, (*Linn.*) or Bee-Eater, contists of more than forty species, one only of which, the *Apiaster*, or Common-Bee-Eater, is found in this country. The characteristics of this tribe are a curved, quadrangular, compressed, carinate, pointed bill; tongue slender, the tip (generally) jagged; feet gressorial. They are scattered over India, Africa, and the South of Europe.

The *Apiaster*, or Common-Bee-Eater, from which the rest of the species do not essentially differ, derives its name from subsisting chiefly on bees, wasps, and other insects, which, like the swallow, it catches when on the wing. The head and neck of this bird are chesnut; upper part of the body pale yellow, with reflections of green and chesnut; the lower parts azure, brightening towards the tail; bill black, quadrangular, a little bent and sharp at the point; length ten inches. Digs deep holes in sandy banks, where it lays from five to seven white eggs; gregarious, found not only in England, but many other parts of Europe, as well as in Asia and America. There is another variety, having a convex instead of a carinate bill, and in which the toes are not connected, as far as the third joint.

The *Rufus*, or Rufous-Bee-Eater, is eight inches and half long; plumage in general rufous, deeper on the upper parts, inclining to yellow beneath; builds a curious nest. See the Introduction. Eggs four, white, spotted with rufous. Song trifling. Found at Buenos Ayres, and on the River Plate.

The Bee-Eater is said to be *migratory* in this country; but, although occasionally seen here in the summer season, its nest has never, I believe, been discovered. It is said to be plentiful, and to breed in the southern parts of Russia.

From far Polynesia's Taheitian grove,
Where, 'midst Flora's rich realm is his pleasure to rove,
In his glossy green-black came the POË-BIRD (14)
bright,
Whose plumage and note afford equal delight.

One of the handsomest of the tribe is the *Viridis*, or INDIAN-BEE EATER, of a green colour, with a black belt on the breast and the throat, and tail of the same hue; of this there are several varieties, inhabitants of Bengal.

(13) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) BEEF-EATER.

The genus BUPHAGA, (*Linn.*) or BEEF-EATER, consists of two species only, distinguished by a straight somewhat square bill, mandible gibbous, entire, more gibbous on the outside; legs gressorial. The *Africana*, AFRICAN-BEEF-EATER, or *African-Oxpecker*, is eight and a half inches long; picks holes in the backs of cattle, for the purpose of getting at the *larvæ* of the gad fly; feeds also on insects; found near the river Senegal in Africa, and parts within the Cape of Good Hope.

The STRIPED-BEEF-EATER is the size of the former; a specimen is in the museum of Mr. Bullock.

(14) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) HONEY-EATER, the POË, the GREAT-HOOK-BILLED, the HOOK-BILLED, &c.

The genus ANTHOPHAGUS, (*Lath.*) or HONEY-EATER, consists of seventy species; they have a bill somewhat triangular at the base, and more or less bent at the tip; nostrils rounded, partly covered by a membrane; tongue more or less extensile, formed for collecting honey from flowers, which is supposed to be their principal food; legs made for walking. This genus is also divided by Dr. Latham into those *with thrush-like bills*, and those *with creeper bills*. The following are examples of each:

The *Cincinnatus*, (*Lath.*) POE-HONEY-EATER, *Poë-Bee-Eater*, *Poë-Bird*, or *Kogo*, *with a thrush-like bill*, is rather larger than

Many Eaters of Honey, flowers flutter'd among;
While others seem'd charm'd with the *Poë-bird's* song.

a blackbird; length eleven inches; plumage deep greenish-black, in many parts very glossy; greater wing coverts white; tail coverts a rich blue; tail same as the body; neck feathers fine, long, somewhat curled, and standing from the neck like a ruff; a white tuft of curled feathers on each side of the neck. The term *Poë* is said to be the Otaheitan word for *ear-ring*, whence its name. This bird is said to be as remarkable for the sweetness of its note as it is for the beauty of its plumage; flesh delicate food; inhabits New Zealand and the South Sea Islands; and particularly *Otaheitè;* or, as the inhabitants themselves call it, *Taheety*, or *Taheity*. This island lies in latitude 18° South, and in the 150th degree of West longitude; it is beautiful, well wooded, and affords support to many inhabitants. The celebrated Bread Fruit-Tree, *Artocarpus incisa*, is indigenous here; it is about the size of a moderate oak; the leaves are oblong, and often a foot and half in length; they, in colour and thickness, resemble those of the fig, exuding a milky juice on fracture. The fruit is about the size of a new-born child's head. The eatable part, which lies between the skin and core, is as white as snow, and of the consistence of new bread. It is prepared for eating in various ways.

The Great-Hooked-billed-Honey-Eater, or Great-Hook-billed-Creeper, *(Certhia pacifica,) with a creeper-like-bill*, is eight inches long; plumage above black, lower parts of the back, rump, and upper tail coverts, a fine deep yellow; beneath dusky; shoulders, inner ridge of the wing, and part of the coverts, yellow; quills and tail black; inhabits the Friendly Islands in the South Seas; called at Owhyhee, *Hoohoo*.

The Hooked-billed-Honey-Eater, *(Certhia Obscura,)* may also be mentioned as a curious species. For another *Honey-Eater*, see pages 319, 320, *Cinnyris affinis*.

THE POË-BIRD'S SONG.

Anthophagus Cincinnatus.—(LATH.)

Taheity! Taheity!
The POË-BIRD's home,
Taheity! Taheity!
Who from thee would roam?

Taheity! Taheity!
Far over the sea!
When, when shall return
Thy own bird unto thee?

Taheity! Taheity!
All *strangers* I see;
When shall I behold
Those I love, know, and thee?

Taheity! Taheity!
Thy groves and thy shade,
Thy mountains, thy vales,
For affection were made.

Taheity! Taheity!—
Thy *Mahie*[*] to see!
Oh, when shall return
Thy own bird unto thee?

---

[*] The *Bread-Fruit-Tree,* so called by the natives of Otaheitè.

Not in woodlands apart from the rest of the crowd,
Where the dark vested trees many warblers oft shroud;
Not unheard and unseen, far from dwellings of men,
Pour'd the BLUE-BIRD (15) his notes in the wild forest
glen;
But, the dear mellow harmonist seem'd to delight
In all that was social, and chearful, and bright:
Artless chorister! he, in his elegant suit,
Thus tastefully touch'd the sweet strings of his lute.

(15) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Lath.*) BLUE-BIRD, or BLUE-WARBLER.

The *Sylvia sialis*, BLUE-BIRD, or BLUE-WARBLER, is six inches and three quarters long; above a rich sky-blue, with purple reflections; throat, neck, breast, and sides partially under the wings, chesnut; beneath white; inhabits the United States, Mexico, Brazil, and Guiana; eggs five or six, pale blue; feeds on insects and berries. It is much troubled with a species of tape-worm; most other birds, it is said, are also pestered with these animals. The spring and summer song of this bird is a soft, agreeable, and oft repeated, warble. In its motions and general character has a great resemblance to the redbreast; like him in this country, the blue-bird is known to almost every child in the United States. The cowpen lays its egg sometimes in the nest of this bird. See the NOTE on the COWPEN, forward; and also the ADDRESS to the BLUE-BIRD.

"When winter's cold tempests and snows are no more,
Green meadows and brown furrow'd fields re-appearing;
The fishermen hauling their shad to the shore,
And cloud-cleaving geese to the lakes are a-steering;
When first the lone butterfly flits on the wing;
When red glow the maples so fresh and so pleasing,
O then comes the BLUE-BIRD, the HERALD of SPRING!
And hails with his warbling the charms of the season."
WILSON'S *American Ornithology*.

THE BLUE-BIRD'S SONG.

Sylvia Sialis.—(LATH.)

Free from sorrow, free from strife,
What is like *domestic* life?
Over mountain, over hill,
Vagrant birds may wander still;
I, contented, will not roam;
Sweet are the delights of HOME!

Seek thou glory's sanguine field;—
Seek whatever fame may yield;—
Seek thou honour, seek thou wealth—
Seek, still seek, and squander health;—
I, contented, will not roam;
Sweet are the delights of HOME!

Home! thy magic circles round
What of peace on earth is found;
Love—affection—friendship—all
That the virtues we may call.
I, contented, will not roam;
Sweet are the delights of HOME![*]

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[*] "There is a magic in that little word,
It is a mystic circle that surrounds
Comforts and virtues, never known beyond
The hallowed limit."

SOUTHEY'S *Hymns to the Penates.*

TO THE BLUE-BIRD.

Sylvia Sialis.—(Lath.)

> " In far Columbian climes
> The Blue-bird, that domestic sylviad, he
> Whom youth, whom age, whom infancy respects,
> Affords sincere delight what time the spring
> He wakens with his gentle melodies."
>
> *From an unpublished Poem.*

Bird cerulean! Bird of Spring!
Listen while the strain I sing.
When nature clad in robes of green
Amidst her woodland haunts is seen;—
When trees and flowers pour out their bloom,
And fling abroad a rich perfume,
Then, then thy softest, sweetest note
On zephyr's wave is heard to float;—
All things look fair, rejoicing, bright—
Children of hope and high delight;
While infancy enraptur'd views
Thy beauty ting'd with purple hues.
Bird cerulean! Bird of Spring!
Listen while the strain I sing.
Thy *spring* shall pass, thy *summer* fly,
And *autumn* quit thee with a sigh;
At length, the *winter's* howling gust
Shall dash thy pleasures to the dust;

But soon again thy hope shall rise,
And spread her wing o'er vernal skies;
Thy song of softest, sweetest note,
On zephyr's wave again shall float.
  BIRD cerulean! BIRD of SPRING!
  Listen while the strain I sing.
Man hath his foes and so hast thou;
What time beneath the waving bough
Thy humble home is recent made,
The *Cowpen* may thy peace invade.
Audacious bird! uncourtly guest!
Too idle to construct a nest!
Alas! who must not bend to power?
Even birds, within their little hour,
From tyrant birds shall suffer still
As man from some superior's WILL:
Who does not sometimes nurture those,
As thou, who prove the deadliest foes?
  BIRD cerulean! BIRD of SPRING,
  Listen while the strain I sing.
All, all is *change* throughout the earth!
Joy follows sorrow, sadness mirth,
And when distress pursues the mind,
Relief, perchance, is close behind.
Sweet BIRD! Columbia's gentle pride,
Whose doors for thee are open wide,
Still warble thou thy softest song;
To thee all pleasing strains belong;
  BIRD cerulean! BIRD of SPRING!
  Listen while the strain I sing.

The MAN-OF-WAR-BIRD, (16) with a fish in his
mouth,
Look'd grotesque as he heavily rose from the south;

(16) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) ALBATROSS, the WANDERING, the CHOCOLATE, the SOOTY, the MAN-OF-WAR-BIRD.

The genus DIOMEDEA, (*Linn.*) or ALBATROSS, consists of four species, distinguished by a straight bill, the upper mandible hooked at the point, the lower truncate; nostrils oval, wide, prominent, lateral; tongue very small; feet four toed, all placed forwards, palmate. They are as follow :

The *Exulans*, ALBATROSS, *Wandering-Albatross*, or *Man-of-War-Bird*, is from three and a half to four feet long; its general colour is white; back and wings with white lines; bill pale-yellow, legs flesh-colour; quill feathers black; tail rounded, lead-colour; wings, when extended, from ten to thirteen feet; inhabits most seas, but chiefly within the tropics; rarely flies at a great distance from the water, unless obliged to do so by high winds; seen sometimes in the southern ocean, six or seven hundred leagues from land.

Eggs numerous, larger than those of a goose, the white not hardened by boiling; the flesh is tough, but occasionally eaten. The cry of this bird is harsh and braying. It sometimes swallows a salmon of such length that the whole cannot enter its stomach, the tail part hanging out of its mouth. At such times it is easily knocked down and killed; but, at other times, it makes a stout resistance. The male watches the female while sitting, and supplies her with food. The large intestine is used in some countries as a floating bladder to buoy up fishing nets; the bones are employed by some of the South Sea Islanders for tobacco pipes, needle cases, and other trinkets. As soon as the young of this bird leave the nest, the Penguin takes possession of it, and hatches its young in turn.

The *Spadicea*, or CHOCOLATE-ALBATROSS, has the body a

The CHOCOLATE-ALBATROSS came from CHUNG-KWO ;*
And another, the SOOTY, from regions of snow.
The COWPEN (17) too came, who, for reasons unknown,
Will never construct any house of her own ;
Like the CUCKOO, content is this bird of the west
To deposit her egg in another bird's nest :

deep chesnut-brown ; face and wings, beneath whitish ; another variety entirely grey-brown. The first, three feet long, inhabits the Pacific Ocean ; the second, two and a half feet long, inhabits China. The *Chlororhyncos*, or YELLOW-NOSED-ALBATROSS, is about three feet long, and inhabits the Pacific Ocean. The *Fuliginosus*, or SOOTY-ALBATROSS, is the size of the last ; inhabits seas in the arctic circle.

All this tribe of birds nourish their young by discharging the contents of their stomach.

For another *Man-of-War-Bird* see the note on the PELICAN.

(17) ORDER, PASSERES, *(Linn.)* BUNTING, the COW, or COWPEN-BIRD.

This bird, which is found in the United States of America, and, probably, in many other places of the western world, is called by LATHAM, *Oriolus pecoris*, or COWPEN-ORIOLE, and by WILSON, *Emberiza pecoris*, COW-BUNTING, *Cow-Blackbird*, or *Cowpen;* it is, in consequence of its mode of laying its egg, one of the most singular of the ornithological creation. We are not yet sufficiently acquainted with its natural history ; but, from that accurate observer, WILSON, we learn the following particulars :

It is seven inches long ; the head and neck are of a deep silky drab colour ; the upper part of the head is a changeable violet ; the rest of the bird is black, with a considerable

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* China.

Wild wonder may gaze while proud science, in vain,
Attempts the anomaly strange to explain.
Of the TINAMOU-TRIBE* many visitors came ;—
One of robes *citrine* hue and distinguished by fame ;
The VIRGINIAN-QUAIL, and the HEATH-HEN were
there,
To whose singular figure what bird may compare ?

gloss of green when exposed to a good light. The most remarkable trait in the character of this bird is that, like the Cuckoo, it lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, instead of building a nest and hatching for itself; and thus leaving its progeny to the care of strangers. It only lays one egg in any one nest; it is rather larger than those of a blue-bird, thickly sprinkled with grains of pale-brown on a dirty-white ground. It seems to be less nice than the cuckoo in the choice of its nest; among others, it lays in that of the *Blue-Bird*, the *Chipping-Sparrow*, the *Golden-Crowned-Thrush*, the *Red-Eyed-Fly-Catcher*, and the *Maryland-Yellow-Throat*, birds all well known in America, but which are quite foreign to this country. It is said, too, that the eggs or young of the fostering birds, in whose nest the cow-bunting lays its egg, are ejected from the nest, and, of course, destroyed; but, whether by the hatched stranger, or by the foster parents, has not been yet ascertained. This bird is migratory in the northern States of America: it appears in Pennsylvania from the south at the end of March or early in April; it winters in the Carolinas and Georgia. As it does not appear in size and shape by any means so formidable as the cuckoo, this extraordinary habit of laying its egg in the nest of some birds equal, if not superior, to it in size, is more singular than even that of the cuckoo, singular as both of them undoubtedly are. See note (6,) p. 137, 138.

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* For a description of the GREAT-TINAMOU and the PINNATED-GROUSE, or HEATH-HEN, see note (36,) part I.

There, too, YACOUS (18) domestic and GUANS were
seen;
The last with brown back, and a body black-green.

(18) ORDER, GALLINÆ, (*Lath.*) GUAN, YACOU, PIPING-CURASSOW, MARAIL.

The genus PENELOPE, (*Lath.*) to which the GUAN, *Penelope cristata*, and the YACOU, *Penelope cumanensis*, belong, consists of eleven species, distinguished by a bill naked, at the base covered with feathers; legs spurless. They are all inhabitants of South America. The following are the chief:

The *Cristata*, or CRESTED-GUAN, has the head with an erect crest; bill black; body black-green; back brown; neck, breast, and belly, spotted with white; legs red; two feet and a half long; they are often tamed, and make a noise not unlike the sound of *jacu*, or rather, perhaps, *yacou;* flesh good; inhabits Brazil and Guiana.

The *Cumanensis*, or YACOU, is blackish; crest and first quill feathers white; body beneath speckled with white; tail long; legs red; size of a hen turkey; erects its crest and spreads its tail; builds on the ground and in low trees; inhabits Cayenne and Guiana; at the former place it is tamed, becomes familiar, and will mix with other poultry.

The *Pipile*, or PIPING-CURASSOW, has the back brown, spotted with black, the belly black; wing-coverts and first quill-feathers white; legs red; voice weak, piping; inhabits with the last.

The *Maril*, or MARAIL, is greenish-black; head crested; inhabits, in flocks, the woods of Guiana; roosts in trees, upon whose fruit it feeds; emits a harsh disagreeable cry.

The BOAT-BILL (19) was there, too, that feaster on fish;
And the SCARLET-COTINGA as bright as you wish.
Many POMPADOUR-CHATTERERS (20) were seen in
the throng;
Many TROUPIOLES* warbled a sweet plaintive song.

(19) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) BOAT-BILL, the CRESTED, the WHITE-BELLIED.

The genus CANCROMA, (*Linn.*) or BOAT-BILL, consists of two species only; it is characterized by a gibbous bill, shaped like an inverted *boat;* nostrils small, placed in a furrow; tongue small; toes divided; they inhabit South America.

The *Cochlearia,* or CRESTED-BOAT-BILL, is ash-colour; the belly rufous; crown and lunule on the neck black; bill brown; lores naked and blackish; crest long, pendulous, pointed; legs yellowish, brown; toes connected at the base; length twenty-two inches; perches on trees which hang over water, and darts down on fishes as they swim underneath; feeds also on crabs: a second variety having the body spotted brown. The *Cancrophaga,* or WHITE-BELLIED-BOAT-BILL, is also crested; the body rufous-brown; belly whitish; crown black; by some considered only a variety of the preceding, by others the female.

(20) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) CHATTERER, COTINGA, BELL-BIRD.

The genus AMPELIS, (*Linn.*) or CHATTERER, comprehends twenty-eight species, most of them natives of Africa or America, one or two of India; and one, the *Ampelis Garrulus,* or WAXEN CHATTERER, found occasionally in this country; they are distinguished by a straight, convex, subincurved bill, each

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* See forwards. The ORIOLES, so called by the French; I should not have thought it necessary to introduce this term *Troupiole,* had not WATERTON, used it very freely in his *Wanderings in South America:* this unnecessary, as it appears to me, introduction of *new* names is greatly to be regretted.

Aloud, too, was heard the CAMPANERO's note,
As, afar o'er the dell, it seem'd frequent to float.

mandible notched; nostrils covered with bristles; tongue sharp, cartilaginous, bifid; middle toe connected at the base to the outmost. The following seem most worthy of notice:

The *Garrulus*, WAXEN-CHATTERER, *European-Chatterer*, *Silk-Tail*, *Bohemian-Wax-Wing*, or *Bohemian-Chatterer*, in size resembles a starling; the head is crested, which, and the upper parts, are vivacious brown, dashed with ash-colour; beneath pale purplish ash-colour; it is said to appear annually about Edinburgh, and to feed on the berries of the mountain ash; it is also said to breed in parts more northerly, and to form its nest in the holes of rocks; found also occasionally in the southern parts of the kingdom.

The *Carnifex*, RED-CHATTERER, or *Scarlet-Cotinga*, is seven inches long; crest, lower part of the back, rump, thighs, and lower part of the belly bright crimson; the rest of the plumage dull red; inhabits South America; its cry like the word *ouette*. Another, the *Coccinea*, is called SCARLET-CHATTERER. Another, the *Militaris*, the size of a crow, has the whole plumage crimson, inclining to pompadour red; found in Guiana, but scarce. And another, the *Pompadora*, or POMPADOUR-CHATTERER, has the plumage, in general, a fine glossy purplish red; found also in Guiana.

The *Variegata*, or VARIEGATED-CHATTERER, called, occasionally, BELL-BIRD, is eleven inches long; general colour of the body pearly-white, inclining to dove on the back; wings black; from the chin to the middle of the breast, spring numerous narrow flat and elongated fleshy appendages, about one inch and a quarter in length; voice loud, and heard a great way off; makes two kinds of noise, for about six weeks only, in the months of December and January; one like a hammer striking on a wedge; the other similar to the noise of a cracked bell; found in South America, particularly Guiana.

The WHITE-BELLIED-DARTER (21) his power display'd;
The TERNS (22) noisy, daring, of nought were afraid.

The *Caruncula̲ta*, CARUNCULATED-CHATTERER, BELL-BIRD, or *Campanero*, is twelve inches long; the whole plumage in the male white, in the female olive-green; on the forehead a fleshy caruncle or tube, nearly three inches long, which may be erected at pleasure; when filled with air it looks like a spire, when empty it becomes pendulous like that of a turkey-cock; it is jet black, dotted all over with small white feathers; nest on tall trees; eggs four, greenish; voice so loud as to be heard for half a league; WATERTON says three miles! notes composed of two syllables—*In, An*, uttered in a drawling tone; it has been compared, as in the variegated species, to the sound of a *bell*, and hence one of its names; inhabits South America, particularly Guiana.

The MURASING-CHATTERER is found at Calcutta.

(21) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) DARTER, AHINGA.

The genus PLOTUS, (*Linn.*) or DARTER, consists of a very few species; five have been described; they have a straight, pointed, toothed bill; the nostrils with a little slit near the base; face and chin naked; legs short; all the toes connected; they have also a small head and slender neck, and are chiefly seen in southern climates; they live principally on fishes, which they take by darting forward the head, while the neck is contracted like the body of a serpent.

The *Anhinga*, WHITE-BELLIED-DARTER, *Ahinga*, or *Snake-bird*, has the body above black; belly white; head, neck, and breast, reddish-grey; tail-feathers twelve, broad, long; two feet ten inches long; inhabits Brazil, and many other parts of America; builds on trees; when at rest sits with the head drawn in between the shoulders; flesh oily and rancid. The *Melanogaster*, or BLACK-BELLIED-DARTER, is three feet long; inhabits Ceylon and Japan; three or four other varieties

The NODDY, too, sought, midst the sea-birds, delight;
The LARIDS in air look'd exultant and bright.

found in Cayenne and Senegal. The *Surinamensis,* or SURINAM-DARTER, is thirteen inches long; has the head crested; the belly white; is domesticated; feeds on fishes and insects; is very active; inhabits Surinam; Dr. LATHAM has arranged this last under his genus FIN-FOOT, which see.

(22) ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) TERN, the COMMON, the BLACK, the LESSER; the SANDWICH; NODDY.

The genus STERNA, (*Linn.*) or TERN, comprehends between forty and fifty species, four of which are found in this country; they have a subulate, straight, pointed bill; wings very long, tail mostly forked; feet small, webbed; they are clamorous and gregarious, assembling in large flocks; with us they are migratory, leaving our shores regularly on the approach of winter. The following are specimens:

The *Hirundo,* COMMON, GREATER-TERN, *Sea-Swallow,* or *Gull-Teazer,* is fourteen inches long; the bill and legs red; the top of the head black; beneath the eyes, the neck, and all the under parts, white; back and wings of an ash-colour; tail forked and white, except the outer web of the exterior feathers, which is black; it has a slender but elegant form, most beautiful plumage, and is the most active fisher of all the aquatic tribe; it is a noisy and restless bird, constantly on the wing in search of insects or small fish; but though web-footed, is said never to swim or dive; it is most commonly known by the name of sea-swallow, its actions being similar to those of that bird; it is called *gull-teazer* on the south coast of Devonshire, where it is frequently seen to pursue and persecute the lesser gulls, till they disgorge their food, which it dexterously catches before it reaches the water; it comes to this country in the spring; laying on our flat sandy shores three or four eggs, it is said in sand, the size of a pigeon's, olivaceous brown, spotted

Curaçoas Globose,(23) and the Crying, were there;
And many Black Swans, that of yore were so rare,*

with dusky; these are, it is also said, hatched without much attention of the female. This species is found in great abundance on the Canary Islands. It leaves this country on the approach of winter.

The *Fissipes*, **Black-Tern**, *Cloven-footed-Gull*, *Pease-Crow*, or *Car-Swallow*, is less than the common-tern, but is similar in its manner to that bird; it breeds also in this country. The *Minuta*, **Lesser-Tern**, *Smaller-Tern*, *Lesser-Sea-Swallow*, or *Richel-Bird*, is the smallest of the tribe, not measuring more than eight inches and half long; it is an elegant bird, and has also the habits of the common-tern; breeds in the same places, but is far less numerous. The *Cantiaca*, **Sandwich-Tern**, *Kamtschatka-Tern*, or *Cloven-footed-Gull*, is the largest of the British terns, being in length eighteen inches; it is a beautiful bird, but by no means so plentiful as the other species; it is said to breed on the coast of Kent, near Sandwich.

The *Stolida*, or **Noddy**, is also another species that may be mentioned; the body is black; front whitish; eye brown-black; hind head cinereous; bill and legs black; fifteen inches long; inhabits within the tropics.

(23) ORDER, GALLINÆ, (*Linn.*) CURAÇOA, the CRESTED, the GLOBOSE, the CASHEW, the CRYING.

The genus **Crax**, (*Linn.*) **Curaçoa**, **Curassow**, or *Curasso*, consists of eight species, having the bill strong, thick, and the base of each mandible covered with a cere; nostrils in the middle of the cere; feathers covering the head revolute; tail large, straight, expansile: they are all inhabitants of South America; the chief of which are as follow:

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* *Rara avis in terris nigroque simillima cygno.*
Juvenal, *Sat.* vi.

See note (4,) part I.

On the waters were pleas'd their dark plumes to display,
While elegant gracefulness waits on their way.

The *Alector*, CRESTED-CURAÇOA, *Curassow*, *Indian-Cock*, *Pheasant-Cock*, *Hocco*, or *Pheasant-of-Guiana*, sometimes called, from the noise it makes, *Powese*, has the cere yellow; body black; belly white. Three other varieties, differing in the colour of the cere or the belly. The females differ from the males in their colours, but in no other external mark; three feet long; feeds on fruits, and roosts on trees; inhabits the mountainous woods of South America; flesh good. They are frequently brought up tame in the Dutch settlements of Guiana. They breed freely in the menageries of Holland, and have also bred in this country, but the climate does not seem sufficiently warm for them.

The *Globicera*, GLOBOSE-CURAÇOA, or *Curassow*, has the body blackish-blue, lower part of the belly white; size of the last; inhabits Guiana. The *Pauxi*, or CASHEW-CURAÇOA, has the cere blue; body blackish; belly and tip of the tail white; size of the two preceding; inhabits New Spain.

The *Galeata*, GALEATED-CURAÇOA, or *Curassow*, has the crown with a horny cone; body black; nearly as large as a turkey; inhabits the Island of Curaçoa. The *Vociferans*, CRYING-CURAÇOA, or *Curassow*, is brown; belly whitish; bill and breast blue; size of a common fowl; a noisy clamorous bird; inhabits the mountainous parts of Mexico.

It will be perceived at the commencement of this article, that this genus has too often corrupted names applied to it; I have endeavoured to restore the true one, being CURAÇOA, from the island so called. The term HOCCO is applied to this tribe of birds by the French.

From the fertile, moist meadow, palm grove picturesque,
Came the splendid TOUCANS (24) with bills huge and grotesque.
TOUCANETS, mewing CAT-BIRDS, and COCKS of the ROCK,
All fearlessly mix'd with the feathery flock.
The NIGHT-RAVEN'S note, *Qua*, was oft heard 'midst the throng;
The huge ADJUTANT stalk'd the grallators among.

(24) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) TOUCAN, the YELLOW-BREASTED, the GREEN, TOUCANETS.

The genus RAMPHASTOS, (*Linn.*) or TOUCAN, comprehends eighteen species, distinguished by an enormous convex bill, which has a most grotesque appearance, being something like the shape of a mask with a large and long nose, constructed to surprise and frighten children; the tongue is not less singular than the bill, exactly resembling a feather shut up in a large case. They belong to the scansorial tribe, and have, like the parrots, two toes before and two behind. They make much noise, particularly a hissing sound, which is heard at a considerable distance. They build in the holes of trees, which have been scooped out by the woodpecker. They lay only two eggs; they are spread over all the warm parts of America, and, being very sensible to cold, never quit it. They feed, it is said, principally upon the fruit of the palm tree, and swallow their food whole; but the latest observations on the food of this tribe tend to shew that, during the season of incubation, at least, they feed on the eggs and young of other birds. The feathers of the toucan are greatly admired by the Brazilians, who make them up into articles of dress. The following are the chief:

The *Tucanus*, or YELLOW-BREASTED-TOUCAN, is blackish; abdominal band, vent, and rump, yellow; cheeks, chin, and

The EIDER-DUCK came with some other sea-fowl;
In much state appear'd, also, the GREAT-EAGLE-OWL.
The COQUIMBO-OWL, also, the BURROWING, too,
came;
Both by singular habits are known unto fame.*
The ROSY rob'd SPOONBILL,([25] the CRIMSON rob'd too,
In gaudiness flaunted, not pleasing to view;

neck, orange; legs and claws lead colour; nineteen inches long; feeds upon pepper, as do several other species of the genus; inhabits South America; the natives of Cayenne glue the skin and feathers of the neck of this bird upon their cheeks by way of ornament.

The *Viridis*, GREEN-TOUCAN, or *Grigi*, is green; belly yellow; rump red; fourteen inches long; inhabits and feeds like the last; bill not so enormous as some of the other species, being only about four inches and a half in length.

The TOUCANETS are, of course, the smaller species of Toucans; they are mentioned by WATERTON, but not specifically described by him: it is much to be regretted that this gentleman has not been more *scientifically* descriptive of the many birds which he has mentioned in his *Wanderings in South America*.

A Toucan is to be seen alive and in remarkable activity at the Zoological Society in Bruton-street.

([25]) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) SPOON-BILL, the WHITE, the ROSEATE, the DWARF.

The genus PLATALEA, (*Linn.*) or SPOONBILL, consists of five species, one of which, the *Leucorodia*, is found occasionally in this country. The distinguishing characteristics of this tribe is its singular bill, having, as its name imports, the shape of a *spoon;* its singularity does not, however, consist merely in its shape, but also in its structure, for it is not hard like the beaks of other birds, but soft and flexible like leather; it is commonly

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* For an account of the OWLS, see note (41,) part I.

While Canary-Birds fluttered the branches among,
And now warbled apart, now in concert a song.
The Tropic-Bird (26) swift, too, was seen in mid sky;
And that Tyrant, the Shrike, you might also descry.

seven inches long, and nearly two in breadth towards the point; all round the upper mandible runs a rim which covers the lower one; the nostrils are small, at the base of the bill; tongue short, pointed; feet semi-palmated. The following are the chief:

Of the *Leucorodia*, White-Spoonbill, *Spoonbill*, or *Pelican*, there are three varieties. The first has the body white; chin black; hind-head subcrested: the second has the wings varied with black and white; legs yellowish: and the third has the body all white; legs flesh-colour; two feet eight inches long; feeds on fishes, frogs, snakes, and grass; builds in high trees; eggs three or four, white, with reddish spots; flesh resembles a goose, especially when young; inhabits Europe and Asia, and is seen occasionally in this country.

The *Ajaja*, or Roseate-Spoonbill, has the body rosy; tail-coverts scarlet; another variety blood-red; neck white; collar black; tail-feathers scarlet; two feet three inches long; the first variety inhabits Guiana and Brazil; the last Mexico and Jamaica.

The *Pygmæa*, or Dwarf-Spoonbill, has the body above brown, beneath white.

In the European Spoonbill both mandibles are black, brown, or grey; the beak of the American Spoonbill is of a red colour, resembling its feathers; all the different species are inhabitants of the sea-coast; they are sometimes met with in vast flocks. Notwithstanding the brilliant colours of the American species, the spoonbill is generally considered an ugly bird. The *Leucorodia* is found in great plenty in Holland.

(26) Order, Anseres, (*Linn.*) Tropic-Bird, the Common, the Black-Billed, the Red-Tailed.

The genus Phaeton, *(Linn.)* or Tropic-Bird, comprehends four species only, distinguished by a sharp-edged, straight,

The TANAGER touch'd with much feeling his lute;
The diminutive TODY (27) was there in green suit.

pointed bill, the gape of the mouth reaching beyond; nostrils oblong; hind toe turned forward. The chief are as follow:

The *Æthereus,* or COMMON-TROPIC-BIRD, has the head, neck, and beneath white; back, rump, and less wing-feathers, streaked with white, mixed with black; two middle tail feathers black at the base; bill three inches long; size of a widgeon, yet its length, with the tail, two feet ten inches; flies very high; feeds on fishes; often seen on the backs of tortoises; seldom on land, except at breeding time; inhabits the tropics. Two other varieties.

> "Though faster than the tropic-bird they flew."
> GRAINGER'S *Sugar Cane,* Book iii.

The *Melanorhynchos,* or BLACK-BILLED-TROPIC-BIRD, has the bill black; is above streaked with black and white; beneath white; nineteen and a half inches long; inhabits Palmerston and Turtle islands.

The *Phœnicurus,* or RED-TAILED-TROPIC-BIRD, is of a rosy flesh-colour; bill red; length two feet ten inches, of which the two middle tail feathers, which are red, measure one foot nine inches; builds in hollows in the ground, under trees; eggs two, yellowish-white, with rufous spots. Inhabits the Mauritius island.

(27) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) TODY, the GREEN, the KING, &c.

The genus TODUS, (*Linn.*) or TODY, consists of nearly thirty species, mostly inhabiting the warmer parts of America; they have a subulate, depressed, obtuse, straight bill, covered at the base with bristles; feet gressorial; this tribe are nearly allied to the fly-catchers, but have the middle and outer toes much connected, which in the fly-catchers are divided at the base. The chief are the following:—

The Viridis, or GREEN-TODY, *Green-Sparrow, Green-Humming-*

Woke his flute to wild cadence the RED-BREASTED-THRUSH,*
And the sweet, shy WOOD-ROBIN* was heard with a "*hush!*"
He, rehearsing his strain, in the woodlands apart,
Touch'd with magical sympathy many a heart,
And, at length, his rich notes, bursting forth into song,
Thus arrested, in silence, the listening throng:

Bird, or *Ground-Parakeet*, has the upper parts of the body in the female green, in the male blue; size of a wren; the bill is red; back light-blue; belly white; the throat and sides a beautiful rose-colour; the claws are long and hooked, adapted to scoop out holes in the ground, where it takes up its abode and builds its nest, which it lines with straw, moss, cotton, and feathers; eggs grey, with deep yellow spots; the young is fed with insects and small worms: inhabits St. Domingo.

The *Regius*, or KING-TODY, is blackish-brown, reddish beneath; crest chesnut, spotted with white at the tip; chin and eyelids white; bill dusky-brown; breast with transverse blackish lines; legs flesh-colour. This singular and beautiful species inhabits Cayenne; it is, however, a very rare bird; seven inches long.

The *Platyrhyncos*, or BROAD-BILLED-TODY, is yellowish-brown, beneath yellow; chin and spot on the crown white; wings and tail brown; bill very large and broad; size of the nightingale.

The *Obscurus*, or OBSCURE-TODY, is olive-brown; beneath yellowish-white; size of the hedge-sparrow; found in North America; feeds on insects.

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* For an account of this bird and the *Red-breasted-Thrush*, see the WOOD-THRUSH'S EVENING SONG.

THE WOOD-ROBIN'S MORNING SONG.*

Turdus Melodus.—(Wilson.)

Liberty, Liberty, dearest of treasure—
Give me of freedom an o'erflowing measure!

Columbia! Columbia! the home of the free,
Who of the earth is so happy as thee?

Peace with her olive branch waving her hand—
One brotherhood binds thee, my dear Native Land!

Made were thy Prairies, Woods, Mountains, and thee,
For us, and for man, too—a home for the free.

Liberty, Liberty, dearest of treasure—
Give me of freedom an o'erflowing measure!

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[*] The reader will be so obliging as to recollect that the *Wood-Robin* and the *Wood-Thrush* is the same bird: the evening *song* of this charming bird is, therefore, that entitled the *Wood-Thrush's Evening Song*; the two names have been adopted both for euphonious convenience and variety. The following lines, used as a *simile* in Carrington's *Twin's Lament*, are very descriptive of the locality of this bird's nest: a coincidence, of course, purely accidental.

"His home,
—A quiet nest embosom'd deep
In woods of some soft valley, where the hand
Of plunderer comes not, and the sudden gale
But seldom shrieks, and silence sweetly spreads
O'er all her downy wing."

TO THE WOOD-ROBIN.

Turdus Melodus.—(Wilson.)

Yes, Bird of melodious note! unto thee
Shall ever be sacred the home of the free!
There may Liberty flourish—extend her broad shade,
And Knowledge delight in the home she hath made.
And oh! might a wish for the welfare of men
Be heard, and prevail over mountain and glen,
Where the fierce tropic sun rolls his chariot along,
And Slavery still dwells western regions among;
Then, should gentle Benevolence, warm from the heart,
Flow in streams of Persuasion—pure lessons impart—
Then, should Truth and should Justice together be found;—
And knowledge diffuse far her radiance around;—
The Slave become free, and his Master his Friend;
And thus Happiness widely her blessings extend.
Yes, Bird of melodious note! unto thee,
Unto man, too, be sacred the Home of the Free![*]

[*] See this subject farther pursued in the piece towards the conclusion of this work, entitled the Hill of Freedom.

Of mercy the emblem in annals of fame,
With her pouch full of fish, the WHITE PELICAN (28)
came;

(28) **ORDER, ANSERES, (*Linn.*) PELICAN, CORMORANT, SHAG, BOOBY, FRIGATE-PELICAN, GANNET.**

The *genus* **PELECANUS**, (*Linn.*) or **PELICAN**, comprehends nearly forty species scattered over the globe, three or four common to this country. The bill is long, straight, hooked at the end; nostrils an obliterated slit; toes four, palmate. These birds are extremely expert at catching fishes with their long bills, and are often tamed for this purpose. They are gregarious and voracious. The following are the principal:—

The *Onocrotalus*, WHITE-PELICAN, or *Pelican*, is white, gullet pouched; bill red, from fifteen to sixteen inches long; upper mandible depressed, broad, the lower forked; the gular pouch is flaccid, membranaceous, of a red or yellowish colour, and capable of great distention; head naked, at the sides covered with a flesh-coloured skin. It is by far the largest of the genus, the wings, when extended, being from ten to twelve feet; the pouch, which will contain when distended ten quarts of water, answers the purpose of a crop, and is used by the bird to contain food both for itself and for its young, which, when hatched, are fed with the fishes which have been for some time macerated in the pouch. This bird is easily tamed; but it is a disagreeable and useless domestic, and its flesh unsavoury. Whatever food is given it, it always first commits to the pouch, and afterwards swallows at leisure. It is universally spread over all the warm latitudes of both the old and new continents; has been seen, although rarely, in this country. In Asia they are pretty numerous, migratory, and fly in wedge-shaped flocks. Eggs two or more, white, the size of those of a swan; time of incubation the same as that bird. Great numbers are killed for their pouches, which are converted by the native Americans into purses, &c. When carefully prepared, the membrane is as soft as silk, and sometimes is embroidered by the Spanish ladies for

The once-believ'd fable of blood from her breast
Hath long since been set, and for ever, at rest.

work-bags, &c. It is used in Egypt by the sailors, whilst attached to the two under chaps, for holding or baling water. The pouch extends from the point of the under mandible to the throat; it admits of being greatly contracted. In disgorging the food the bird presses the bottom of the sack upon her breast, and thus the contents are discharged: hence the fable of feeding her young with her blood. It is an indolent lazy bird; the female takes very little care either of her eggs or her young. When it cannot obtain fish, it will feed on rats and small quadrupeds. Although the general colour of this bird is white, it becomes, it is said, as it advances in age, in many parts of the body, red. It lives sometimes 100 years.

The *Carbo*, CORMORANT, *Corvorant*, or *Sea-Crow*, is black; the neck long, size nearly that of a goose; found in almost every part of the ocean; flesh eaten by navigators; it abounds on the sea-coasts of these kingdoms, but chiefly the north: it is very common also on the shores of the Bristol Channel. This bird was formerly domesticated in this country, and trained to fish for its owner; it is still used in China for this purpose. It is subject to much variety both in size and colour: one described by MONTAGUE, unquestionably very large, was three feet three inches long, breadth four feet eleven inches, and weight eight pounds! It is usually, however, much less than this: not so large as a goose. Eggs three, white; nest, composed of sticks and sea-weed, is generally found on the summit of the highest rocks, near the sea. It is in the winter seen sometimes in fresh-water rivers, at a considerable distance from the sea.

This bird has been usually considered greedy and rapacious; so much so, indeed, that it has been often cited by writers, and particularly by the poets, as well as in the common language of life, as an emblem of greediness:—

"Spite of *cormorant* devouring time."

SHAKESPEARE.

The imbecile fool BOOBY, the GANNET, the SHAG;
DUCKS of all kinds; and GEESE, amongst which the
GREY-LAG.
There were, too, FRIGATE-PELICANS soaring on high;
Those who sometimes proceed man himself to defy;

> "Hence up he flew, and on the tree of life
> Sat like a *cormorant*."
>
> MILTON.

The *Graculus*, or SHAG, called erroneously sometimes *Crane*, is black above, beneath brown; two feet and a half long; two other varieties; in its general manners similar to the Cormorant, but keeps wholly to the salt water. Inhabits Europe and Ireland, and is common also to this country. Perches on and sometimes builds (as well as one of the varieties of the Cormorant) in trees, although both these birds have *palmate* feet.

The *Sula*, or BOOBY, has a whitish body, quill feathers tipt with blackish; beneath white; length two feet and a half; bill five, tail upwards of ten inches long. Inhabits South America and the neighbouring islands. It is an indolent, senseless, and cowardly bird, submitting to all sorts of depredations upon its happiness with indolent imbecility; yet is, occasionally, when much excited, ferocious. The *man-of-war-bird* (see the next species,) no sooner perceives it in the air, than it pounces upon it, not to destroy it, but to make it disgorge the fish which it has swallowed, which is snatched up by the voracious plunderer before it reaches the water.

The *Aquilus*, FRIGATE-PELICAN, *Great-Frigate-Pelican*, *Frigate-Bird*, or *Man-of-War-Bird*, has a forked tail, body black, bill red; the male has the pouch deep red; wing coverts rufous; female belly white; three feet long; extent of the wings fourteen feet; builds in rocks and trees; eggs one or two, flesh-colour, spotted with red; feeds principally, if not entirely, on fish. This bird is one of the most formidable tyrants of the

Fierce warriors o'er ocean pursuing their way,
And who merciless pounce, as they pass, on their prey.

ocean. When in flocks their audacity has sometimes prompted them to brave even man himself. It is said a cloud of them attacked a crew of French sailors upon the Island of Ascension, and, till some of them were struck down, endeavoured to snatch the meat from their hands. From the length of their wings, when upon the ground or on the water they cannot easily take flight; they are, therefore, rarely, if ever, seen *on* the water. Although having palmate feet, they perch commonly on trees or other eminences, where they also build: eggs one or two, flesh-colour, spotted with crimson. Inhabits within the tropics. See the preceding article.

The *Bassanus*, GANNET, *Common-Gannet*, or *Soland-Goose*, has a white body; bill and primary quill feathers black; face blue; length three feet; three varieties; one inhabits Cayenne, the other two Europe and America. The gannets are birds of passage, arriving in this country in March, and quitting it in August or September. Their chief food is herrings, although, it is said, they cannot dive for them. They are found in vast numbers on the rocky recesses of Scotland; and particularly on the *Bass* rock, at the entrance of the Frith of Forth, whence this bird has obtained its specific name. Egg one; but, if that be carried away, the female will lay twice or even thrice. The young grow very fat; and, in St. Kilda, with the eggs, contribute to the support of the inhabitants, who contrive to take them by being suspended by a rope from precipitous rocks, two hundred fathoms from the ground. The eggs and food thus procured are preserved in pyramidal stone buildings, covered with ashes, to defend them from moisture. Their winter retreat is said to be off the coast of Cornwall, far out at sea, and in every part of the British and Irish Channel, pursuing herrings and pilchards. See the INTRODUCTION.

The GRAKLE (29), loquacious, whose nests will be found
The marge of the Osprey's to cluster around;

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(29) ORDER, PIÆ, (*Linn.*) GRAKLE the MINOR, the BOAT-TAILED, the CRESTED, the PURPLE, &c.

The *genus* GRACULA, (*Linn.*) or GRAKLE, consists of nearly forty species, natives of India and South America, some of them of Europe. They have a thick convex bill, compressed at the sides, with small nostrils, and sharp hooked claws, the middle toe connected at the base with the outer. The following are the chief:—

The *Religiosa*, or MINOR-GRAKLE, is violet black, spot on the wings white; hind head with a yellow naked band. Another variety much larger; both inhabit Asia; the first is ten inches and half long; feeds on cherries, grapes, and other fruits; when tamed exceedingly loquacious.

The *Barita*, or BOAT-TAILED GRAKLE, is greyish, shoulders blue; quill feathers outside green; tail rounded and concave when folded, as it is when on the wing; flat when spread; thirteen inches long; feeds on insects and fruits; inhabits America and the West Indies.

The *Quiscala*, PURPLE-GRAKLE, or CROW-BLACKBIRD, is violet black, tail rounded. Male thirteen and a half, female eleven and a half inches long; sings finely; lays five or six bluish eggs, with black striped spots; nests in great numbers on the same tree; and also sometimes near the *Osprey's*. See note 1, part I., article HALIÆETOS. When domesticated, feeds on all kinds of grain. Although very destructive to plantations, it clears them in a considerable degree from noxious insects, on which account the breed has been of late encouraged in the West Indies. It is a native of Mexico, the warm parts of America, and Jamaica.

The *Sturvina* is hoary, black on the crown and back; between the wings violet black; tail and wings with a shade of green.

The HORN'D-SCREAMER (30), too, from the Savannah
was there,
Arm'd with spines on his wing, yet is said still to be
Of birds the most harmless, affectionate he.
And GROSBEAKS, whose nests with what can we
compare?
Fame reports, too, with *worms** noctilucent and bright,
They illumine their domes in the darkness of night!
But FAME oft misleads us from NATURE and TRUTH,
Her excitements deceive *age,* and *manhood*, and *youth.*

In its eggs and nest resembles those of the thrush; inhabits the osier banks of Dauria.

The *Cristellata,* or CRESTED-GRAKLE, is eight and a half inches long; inhabits China; is very loquacious, and makes a hissing noise.

(30) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) SCREAMER, the HORNED, the CRESTED.

The *genus* PALAMEDEA, (*Linn.*) or SCREAMER, consists of three species, having a conic bill, the upper mandible hooked, feet four-toed, cleft; a very small membrane connecting the toes at the root. They are as follow:—

The *Cornuta,* or HORNED-SCREAMER, has the wings with *two* spurs at the head of each; front horned; the head and upper part of the neck covered with short bristly feathers; the rest of the plumage is longer, of a dark brown colour, mixed with green. The feet four inches long; size of a large swan. The first spur on the wing is two inches long; the second half an inch. Notwithstanding this armour, it is said that this bird is the most gentle of all animals; that the male and female are always found in pairs, evincing great attachment for each other; that they are inseparable; and that, if one dies, the other does

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* *Lampyris noctiluca*, or GLOW-WORM. See page 177.

He who NATURE'S GREAT BOOK would sincerely
peruse,
With *dispassionate judgment* phenomena views;
Whatever he sees, and whatever his tact,
He will always confine himself closely to FACT;
Nor permits he wild WONDER to dazzle his eyes,
Nor yields REASON a captive to silly SURPRIZE;
If *Discovery* should give to some *Novelty* birth,
Lets not RAPTURE esteem it beyond its own worth;
Lets not POETRY paint it in colours so fair,
That when seen, void of *Art*, is nor splendid nor rare;
In fine, although led by fair *Pleasure's* soft hand,
Still, observant of NATURE, gives TRUTH the command.

not long survive. It seems, nevertheless, most probable that *the spurs on the wings* are a defence against some noxious animals, which infest the native regions of this bird. Feeds on herbs, seeds, and reptiles. Nest of weeds, and shaped like an oven; eggs two. When alarmed, rises from the ground with a loud and continued screaming. Inhabits the fenny and marshy parts of South America, where it is discovered by its voice, and hunted for its flesh; it is also domesticated for the same purpose. Called by the natives *Kamichi.*

The *Cristata*, or CRESTED SCREAMER, has the wings unarmed, front crested; size of a heron; habits and place of abode similar to the last. Called by the natives CARIAMA, from the sharp cry which it makes, and which is compared to that of a turkey, but so loud as to be heard a mile off. Flesh delicate; by some thought equal to the pheasant.

This last is described by Dr. LATHAM as a separate genus, under the term CARIAMA.

The other species is the *Chaja*, inhabiting Paraguay.

While many a Warbler's and Oriole's song
Were heard, in wild cadence, pimentas among,
The GOLD-BREASTED TRUMPETER (31) shouted aloud;
Of all harsh discordance he seems to be proud.
The GRAND PROMEROPS*, too, in his beautiful green,
Other HOOPOES of splendour were also there seen.

(31) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) TRUMPETER, the GOLD-BREASTED, the UNDULATE.

The *genus* PSOPHIA, (*Linn.*) or TRUMPETER, consists of three species, distinguished by a cylindric, conic, convex, somewhat pointed bill; the upper mandible larger; nostrils oval, pervious; tongue cartilaginous; feet four toed, cleft. The following are the chief:—

The *Crepitans*, or GOLD-BREASTED TRUMPETER, is black, back grey; breast shining blue green; legs strong, tall, tail short; feathers of the head downy, of the lower part of the neck squamiform; of the shoulders ferruginous, lax, pendulous, silky; twenty inches long; makes a harsh uncommon cry, not unlike a child's trumpet, and follows people through the streets with its disagreeable noise, so that it is difficult to get rid of it; stands on one leg, and sleeps with its head between its shoulders; eggs blue green. Inhabits Brazil and Guinea. When tamed, mixes with other poultry, and domineers even over the Guinea fowl; follows its master in its walks; flesh good.—WATERTON.

The *Undulata*, or UNDULATE-TRUMPETER, has the body above brown, waved with black, beneath bluish white; size of a goose; inhabits Africa.

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* See note (24,) Part I.

The ORIOLES (32) presented a brilliant group:
Some whose domes from one tree by whole centuries
droop:
The PERSICUS, he whom sound wisdom hath taught
That his welfare in union can only be sought;
From the Serpents—the Apes, his alembical nest,
Moves secure o'er the breeze's soft billowy breast.

(32) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) ORIOLE, the HANG-NEST, the BALTIMORE, the GOLDEN, the ICTERIC, the RED-WINGED, the BANANA, the BLACK or TROUPIOLE.

The *genus* ORIOLUS, (*Linn.*) or ORIOLE, comprehends upwards of sixty species, chiefly inhabitants of America; one only, the *Galbula*, or GOLDEN-ORIOLE, found occasionally in this country. They have a conic, convex, very sharp and straight bill; tongue bifid; feet ambulatory. They are gregarious, noisy, numerous, voracious, and great devourers of corn: they often build pendulous nests. The following are most deserving of notice:—

The *Nidipendulus*, or HANG-NEST ORIOLE; for an account of which, see the ORIOLE'S SONG.

The *Baltimore*, BALTIMORE-ORIOLE, *Hang-nest*, *Hanging-Bird*, *Golden-Robin*, *Fire-Bird*, *Baltimore-Bird*, is seven inches long; body above black, the rest orange; inhabits various parts of North America, often in flocks, migrating as far as Montreal to the north, and of Brazil to the south; most common in Virginia; has a clear mellow whistle, but can be scarcely termed a song. It attaches its nest to an apple-tree, a weeping-willow, or the Lombardy-poplar, in the American towns; the nest is like a cylinder, five inches in diameter, seven in depth, and round at the bottom; the opening at the top narrowed by a horizontal covering, two inches and half in diameter; the materials flax, hemp, tow, hair, and wool, woven into a complete cloth, the whole tightly sewed through and through with

His clear mellow pipe loud the BALTIMORE blew,
As round willows and poplars delighted he flew:

long horse hairs, several of which measure two feet in length; the bottom consists of thick tufts of cow hair.

> "High on yon poplar clad in glossiest green
> The orange, black-capp'd *Baltimore* is seen;
> The broad extended boughs still please him best;
> Beneath the bending skirts he hangs his nest."
>
> WILSON'S *American Ornithology.*

The *Galbula*, **GOLDEN-ORIOLE**, *Golden-Thrush*, *Witwall*, or *Yellow-Bird-from-Bengal*, is pale-yellow; outer tail-feathers on the hind part yellow; female dusky brownish-green; lateral tail-feathers yellowish-white; nine and a half inches long; feeds on cherries, berries, and insects; inhabits Europe, Asia, and Africa; occasionally seen in this country in the summer; more common in France, where it breeds; the nest is curiously shaped like a purse, and fastened to the extreme branches of tall trees; it is made of the fibres of hemp or straw, mixed with fine dry stalks of grass, and lined with moss and liverwort; eggs four or five, dirty white, with dark brown spots; voice sharp; flesh good. Four or five other varieties, found in Cochin-china and India. It is a migratory bird, and found in various parts of the European continent during the summer; has been observed in Malta on its passage southward, and on its return in the spring northward; supposed to winter in Africa and Asia. A nest, with young ones, was once, I understand, seen in Hampshire.

The *Icterus*, or **ICTERIC-ORIOLE**, is tawny, nine and a half inches long; active, bold; builds a large cylindrical nest hanging from the extreme branches of a tree; is domesticated in America for the purpose of destroying insects; inhabits the warmer parts of America and the Caribbees.

The *Phœniceus*, **RED-WINGED-ORIOLE**, or *Red-winged-Starling* of WILSON, is black, wing-coverts red; about nine inches

The NIGER sang sweetly; what time did the note
Of the HANG-NEST on zephyrs enchantingly float;
Of the tawny BANANA inscribe we the name,
And forget not his *nest* in the annals of fame.

long; builds a thick pensile nest between reeds, and just above the reach of floods; eggs white, with a few black streaks; very destructive to rice plantations; it devours, also, swarms of insects and worms; inhabits in vast flocks from New York as far as New Spain. Found in the summer in the northern, in the winter in the southern American States. Another variety inhabits Africa.

The *Persicus*, BLACK-AND-YELLOW-ORIOLE, or *Persic*, of which there are three or four varieties, inhabits South America. It forms a pendent nest, shaped like an alembic, on the extreme branches of trees; sometimes, it is said, hundreds are seen hanging from the same tree; eggs dirty white, with small pale-brown spots.

The *Bananæ*, BANANA-ORIOLE, *Bonana-Oriole*, or *Banana-bird*, is tawny; back, and quill, and tail-feathers, black; seven inches long; inhabits South America and the Caribbee Islands; forms a nest of leaves and stalks the shape of a fourth part of a globe, sewed with great art to the under part of a banana leaf, so that the leaf itself makes one side of the nest. I have ventured to differ, even from LINNÆUS himself, as well as subsequent naturalists, in the orthography of the specific name of this bird. The great Swede gives us *Bonana;* but surely there can be no reason for such an orthography, as the bird forms its nest partly of the leaf of the BANANA, (*musa sapientum*,) we ought not to depart from the orthography of that word. I also give it in the genitive case, as more expressive of the habit of this Oriole.

The *Niger*, BLACK-ORIOLE, or *Troupiole*, is totally black, female greenish-brown; ten inches long; feeds on worms and beetles; builds in trees about eight feet from the ground, and

There was also the *sawing* bird PHYTOTOMA (33)
Those harshest of all notes, repeating *Ra, Ra.*
With the fine ENGLISH-LADY, (34) so named by
French taste,
The VULTURE was honoured—the assembly was grac'd.

lays five dusky eggs with black spots; it is gregarious, and, in breeding time, sings delightfully; inhabits North America.

For another Oriole, the COWPEN, see page 337; see also forwards—the WEAVER-ORIOLE.

Most of the Oriole tribe are called *Troupioles*, or *Troupiales*, by many French naturalists: they are also called *Troupioles* by WATERTON.

(33) ORDER, PASSERES, *(Lath.)* PLANT-CUTTER, the CHILI, the ABYSSINIAN.

The genus PHYTOTOMA, (*Lath.*) or PLANT-CUTTER, consists of two species, one of which, the *Rara*, CHILI-PLANT-CUTTER, or *Sawing-bird*, has the bill conic, straight, serrate; nostrils oval; tongue short, obtuse; feet four-toed; the bill is thick, half an inch long, and toothed on each side like a saw; body above dusky-ash, beneath paler; quill and tail-feathers spotted with black; nearly the size of a quail; has a harsh interrupted cry, *Ra, Ra*, whence its specific name; feeds on fresh vegetables, which it cuts down near the roots with its bill as with a saw; a pest to gardens; builds in high shady trees; eggs white, spotted with red; inhabits Chili.

The other species is the ABYSSINIAN-PLANT-CUTTER, called by Linnæus *Loxia tridactyla*, or *Three-toed-Grosbeak;* it is the size of the common-grosbeak, but has only *three* toes.

(34) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) CURUCUI, ENGLISH-LADY.

The genus TROGON, *(Linn.)* or CURUCUI, consists of ten species, all natives of warm climates, chiefly Brazil; they are named *Curucui* from the similarity of that sound to their voice; the bill is shorter than the head, sharp-edged, hooked, the man-

The Couriers (35) came from Europe;—the Creeper
I sing,
From New Zealand arriv'd—of the Creepers the king.
The Manakin tuning his octave was there ;
And many sweet Warblers (36) both splendid and
rare :

dibles serrate at the edge; feet formed for climbing. The *Curucui*, or Red-bellied-Curucui, the chief species, is about ten inches long; the head, neck, and breast, a brilliant green, changing in different positions into a lively blue ; wings greenish-white, variegated with small lines of black in a zig-zag direction ; tail very long; belly red; builds in the hole of some tree; eggs three or four, nearly white, the size of a pigeon's; the female during her incubation is supplied with food, carefully watched by the male, and soothed by his song ; the female has also a melancholy accent during the season of love. The French in St. Domingo call this bird the English Lady. Found in various parts of South America.

The *Viridis*, or Yellow-bellied-Curucui, is eleven inches and a half long; song, or rather whistle, not unpleasant; two varieties found in Brazil. The *Indicus*, or Indian Curucui, is found in India; the *Fasciatus*, or Fasciated-Curucui, in Ceylon.

(35) Order, Grallæ, (*Lath.*) Courier.

The genus Corrira, (*Lath.*) or Courier, consists of one species only, the *Italica*, or Italian-Courier, having a long straight bill, without teeth; thighs longer than the body; feet four-toed, palmate; the hind-toe not connected ; it is less than the curlew, and runs swiftly; inhabits Italy.

(36) The genus Motacilla, (*Linn.*) or Sylvia, as the Warblers are termed by Dr. Latham, has been described pretty copiously in the first Part; but as the Warblers, peculiarly so called, are most common to tropical and other warm climates,

The Pensilis, fam'd for perennial song,
Was pleas'd, amid pines, his soft notes to prolong;

and, as few are known in our own country, a separate notice of some of the most striking is here introduced.

Order, Passeres, (*Linn.*) Warbler, the Superb, the Babbling, the African, the Thorn-tailed, the Yellow-Poll, the Palm, the Banana, the Pensile.

The *Cyanea*, or Superb-Warbler, the most beautiful species of the whole genus, is five inches and a half long; colour black-blue, beneath white; feathers of the head long, lax, turgid; front, cheeks, and lunula of the neck, fine blue; female brown above, beneath white; blue round the eyes; one other variety. Inhabits New Holland; the second variety Manilla.

The *Curruca*, or Babbling-Warbler, is found in France, Italy, and India; it is a restless noisy bird, imitating the notes of other birds.

The *Africana*, or African-Warbler, which is more than seven inches long, inhabits the Cape of Good Hope. Its note is said to resemble a flute; flesh in much estimation.

The *Spinicauda*, or Thorn-tailed-Warbler, is the size of a sparrow; the chief peculiarity is its tail, which is cuneiform, and the feathers are almost bare of webs for one-third of their length, ending in points. Inhabits Terra del Fuego, and found occasionally in Paraguay; another variety at the Cape of Good Hope.

The *Æstiva*, Yellow-Poll-Warbler, or Blue-eyed-Yellow-Warbler, inhabits America; makes a soft noise, compared to that of a linnet.

The *Palmarum*, or Palm-Warbler, is five inches long; plumage above brown, beneath dirty yellowish-white. Inhabits St. Domingo; its song consists of four or five notes only, not unpleasant. Found among palm-trees, in which it builds its nest; eggs two only.

The Superb in rich robes flaunted by without lute;
And the African blew, as it pleas'd him, his flute;
One, the Babbling, was heard in a neighbouring vale;
While the Motmot (37) ran past with his singular tail.

The *Bananivora*, **Banana-Warbler**, or *Bananiste*, is often seen on the bananas, on which it is supposed to feed; song trifling; inhabits St. Domingo.

The *Pensilis*, or **Pensile-Warbler**, inhabits St. Domingo and the pine thickets of Georgia; it is five inches long, and a most beautiful species; nest very curious, hanging by the top and playing with every blast of wind; the opening is beneath, through which the bird rises some way upward, over a kind of partition, and descends again to the bottom, on which the eggs, four, are laid on a soft downy matter. The nests are frequently seen suspended on the withes which hang from tree to tree, and chiefly such as are over water; song very delicate, and continued throughout the year; the female also sings, although not equal to the male; feeds on insects and fruit; breeds, it is said, two or three times a year.

The *Carolinensis*, **Louisiane-Wren**, or *Caroline-Wren*, is five inches long; inhabits various parts of South America; called *Tout-voix* by the French; song said to be little inferior to the nightingale; nest like a melon; the entrance to which is about the middle; it is suspended between reeds, and lined with feathers; it is made by the female, the male bringing her the materials.

The *Calendula*, or **Ruby-crowned-Wren**, is larger than the Golden-crested-Wren; plumage above olive, with a tinge of brown, beneath yellowish-white; note loud; it has also a pretty soft warbling one; inhabits South Carolina and Georgia.

(37) Order, Picæ, (*Lath.*) Motmot.

The genus **Momotus**, (*Lath.*) or **Motmot**, consists of two species; the characteristics are a strong, slightly curved bill, serrate at the edges; nostrils feathered; tongue feathered; tail

There, with loud and soft note, too, the RUBY-CROWN'D-
WREN;
And the CAROLINE warbled most sweet in the glen.
The WOODPECKERS came, in their brightness array'd,
Still "tapping," still scooping till holes they had made.
For the poultry fit guardian and governing king,
There the FAITHFUL JACANA (38) with spines on his
wing.

wedged; feet gressorial; distinguished also from all other birds by having the two middle tail feathers quite naked of their vanes, for about an inch, at a small distance from the extremity. The *Brasiliensis*, or BRAZILIAN-MOTMOT, is bright green above, below a more obtuse shade of the same colour; length seven inches; bill conic, serrate; toes three before, one behind. Found in South America; feeds on insects; shy, solitary, and almost incapable of flight. This bird is called by EDWARDS the BRAZILIAN SAW-BILLED ROLLER, by MARCGRAVE, GUIRA-GUAINUMBI.

(38) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) JACANA, the CHILESE, the CHESNUT, the FAITHFUL.

The genus PARRA, (*Linn.*) or JACANA, comprehends more than ten species, natives of the warmer parts of Asia, Africa, and America; they have a tapering, somewhat obtuse bill; nostrils oval, in the middle of the bill; front covered with lobate caruncles; wings spinous. The following are some of the most interesting examples:

The *Chilensis*, or CHILESE-JACANA, has the bill two inches long; neck, back, and forepart of the wings violet; throat and breast black; wings and short tail brown; spurs on the wings yellowish, conic, bony, half an inch long, with which it defends itself; size of a Jay; noisy; feeds on worms, &c.; builds in the grass; eggs four, tawny, speckled with black.

The *Jacana*, or CHESNUT-JACANA, has the body chesnut.

The *Prince* of the *Waders*, the huge JABIRU, (39)
Up the dell in much haste with a long serpent flew.
The CROWS, ROOKS, and RAVENS, arriv'd rather late;
The WILD-TURKIES were many—affected much state.

purple; length ten inches; very noisy; flesh good; inhabits watery places of South America.

The *Chavaria*, or FAITHFUL JACANA, has the toes long; on the hind head a crest, consisting of about twelve black feathers, three inches long, pendent; body brown, belly light black; wings and tail blackish; wing-spurs two or three, half an inch long; size of a cock, and stands a foot and a half from the ground; inhabits the rivers and inundated places near Carthagena in America. The natives keep one of these birds to wander with the poultry and defend them from birds of prey, which it does by the spurs on its wings: it never deserts its charge, bringing them home safely at night. It feeds on herbs; its gait is slow; it cannot run unless assisted by its wings; it flies, however, easily and swiftly; voice clear and loud.

(39) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Linn.*) JABIRU, the AMERICAN, the INDIAN, the NEW HOLLAND.

The genus MYCTERIA, (*Linn.*) or JABIRU, comprises six species, distinguished by a sharp-pointed bill, a little bending upwards; tongue small, or tongueless; feet four-toed, cleft; the following deserve notice:

The *Americana*, or AMERICAN-JABIRU, is white, the plumage on the neck excepted, which is red; quill and tail-feathers purplish-black. It is one of the largest birds of Guiana, being more than four feet high and six in length. Its large black bill is a formidable weapon, being above thirteen inches long, and at the base three in thickness; feeds chiefly on fish, but destroys serpents and other reptiles; is gregarious and migratory; eggs two; nest in trees hanging over water.

The *Asiatica*, or INDIAN-JABIRU, is white; band over the

The Fly-Catchers (40) also flew darting along,
While the Mocking-Bird warbled some other bird's
song:

eyes, lower part of the back, quill and tail feathers, black; feeds on shell fish; inhabits India.

The *Novæ-Hollandiæ*, or New-Holland-Jabiru, has the body above purplish-green, beneath, neck, and shoulders, white; head purplish, spotted with white; first quill feathers white; tail black and white; inhabits New Holland.

(40) Order, Passeres, (*Linn.*) Fly-Catcher, the Spotted, the Pied, the Fantailed, &c.

The genus Muscicapa, (*Linn.*) or Fly-Catcher, comprehends more than one hundred and seventy species scattered over the warmer parts of the globe; the greater number inhabitants of Australasia and Polynesia; two found in this country. They have a bill nearly triangular, notched at each side, bent in at the tip, and beset with bristles at the root; toes, mostly, divided at their origin. The following deserve notice:

The *Grisola*, Spotted-Fly-catcher, *Cobweb*, *Rafter*, *Bee-bird, Cherry-sucker*, or *Chanchider*, is about the size of a titlark; body above brown, beneath whitish; neck longitudinally spotted. Inhabits Europe; comes to this country some time in May, and quits it in September; builds in holes of walls or hollow trees; eggs four or five, pale, spotted with reddish; feeds on winged insects, but is fond also of cherries; frequently seen in woods where flies abound, darting in every direction in pursuit of them; its note a simple weak chirp.

The *Atricapilla*, Pied-Fly-Catcher, or *Cold-Finch*, is about the size of a Linnet, and occasionally seen in this country, and is said to be indigenous here; it is, however, a scarce bird, said to frequent uncultivated tracts of furze, and probably builds there.

DELIGHT of COLUMBIA![*] her WOODS, unto THEE,
For ever be hallowed that HOME of the FREE,
Which the SPIRIT of BRITAIN for ever pervades—
Her hills and her vallies and far distant shades.[†]

The *Aëdon* is rusty-brown, beneath yellowish-white; size of the reed-thrush, and sings delightfully in the night; inhabits Dauria. The *Rubicollis*, or PURPLE-THROATED-FLY-CATCHER, is black; chin and throat with a large purple-red spot; twelve inches long; gregarious; often associates with the toucan; inhabits South America. The *Flabellifera*, or FAN-TAILED-FLY-CATCHER, is above olive, beneath ferruginous; length six and a half inches; flies with its tail expanded like a fan; is easily tamed, and will sit on the shoulders and pick off flies as they appear.

The *Carolinensis*, CAT-FLY-CATCHER, or *Cat-bird*, (the *Turdus lividus* of WILSON,) is nine inches long; very common and very numerous in the United States; colour a deep slate; notes more remarkable for singularity than for melody; mews like a cat, or rather, according to WILSON, like a young kitten; it also imitates the notes of other birds; attacks snakes. To the stories told of the *fascination* of snakes, WILSON gives no credit.

[*] For one song of the MOCKING-BIRD, see the *Song of the Manakin*, and page 405; for the MOCKING-BIRD'S *Night Song*, see the conclusion of the second Part.

[†] The reflection that the pervading MIND of the *United States of America* is essentially BRITISH—*liberal*, *intelligent*, is peculiarly gratifying to a native of the United Kingdom. May nothing, for the future, occur to disturb the harmony now subsisting between us and our kindred of the west!

TO THE MOCKING-BIRD.

Turdus Polyglottus.—(LINN.)

BIRD of MOCKERY! BIRD of SONG!
To thee all discord's notes belong.
When, risen from his couch, the day
To ruddy labour hastes away,
And many a scansor's screaming note
Through wood, o'er dell, is heard to float,
Thy mimic voice is present, loud,
As though of all discordance proud:
The *Bell-bird's* clang—the *Parrot's* prate—
Toucan's loud hiss of fearful hate—
The *Cat-bird's* mew—*Goatsucker's Ha!*
The *Sawing-bird's* harsh, grating *Ra*—
By thee sent forth in mimic song;
To thee all discord's notes belong.
But now, with silence, wait awhile;—
What sounds shall soon the sense beguile!
Some WARBLER, tenant of the shade,
Sends forth his song of sweetness made;
By THEE the strain is instant caught,
And with more mellow sweetness wrought!
BIRD of MOCKERY! BIRD of SONG!
To thee all pleasing notes belong.

When day resigns to night his reign,
And stillness stretches o'er the plain,
Then, BIRD of MELODY! thy note
Doth on the gales of ether float.
That note harmonious, truly *thine*,
Approaches strains almost divine:
When lifts the moon her lamp on high,
And dashes light o'er earth and sky,
Its warbling echoes onward roll,
And lap in feeling's bliss the soul.
BIRD of MOCKERY! BIRD of SONG!
To THEE all pleasing notes belong. (41)

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(41) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) MOCKING-BIRD.

The *Turdus Polyglottus*, (*Linn.*) MOCKING-BIRD, or *Mimic-Thrush*, belongs to the numerous genus TURDUS described in note (45) of the first Part. Its colour is above dusky-ash, beneath pale-ash; primary quill feathers white on the outer half; nine and a half inches long; female nearly like the male; feeds on berries, fruits, and insects; eggs four or five, cinereous blue, spotted with brown; has two broods in a year; found in America, from the States of New England to Brazil, and in many of the adjacent islands; more numerous in those states south of the Delaware; generally migratory in the latter and resident in the former; a warm climate and low country not far from the sea are most congenial to it; sings occasionally as early as February; builds in Georgia in April, in Pennsylvania in May, and in New York and the New England States still later; prefers a thorn bush, an impenetrable thicket, an orange tree, a cedar or a holly bush; sometimes a pear or apple tree, often a short distance from a dwelling-house; time of incubation fourteen days, during which the male will attack both cats and snakes with great courage;

The GREAT-CROWN'D-INDIAN-PIGEON came cooing
aloud,
Of whom might the Papuan regions be proud.

the pretended fascination of these last being ineffectual, this bird frequently destroying the noxious reptile.

The mocking-bird forms a striking exception to what is generally esteemed the character of the birds of the new world, where the rich, lively, and brilliant hues of the feathered race are very often accompanied with harsh, monotonous, and disagreeable notes, but the mocking-bird is the most melodious of all birds, the nightingale not excepted. Besides the charms of its natural song, it has the power of imitating or counterfeiting the notes of every bird of the woods; and, it is said, too, that the songs which it repeats it improves. With all these qualifications it is of very ordinary appearance compared with other birds in the American woods. It is, however, fond of the vicinity of man, and easily domesticated; it perches upon trees near the planter's houses; and sometimes upon the chimney tops, where it remains all night, pouring forth the sweetest and most varied notes. From all that can be gathered concerning the song of this bird, it appears that *during the day* its chief notes consist of the imitations of the songs of its neighbours; *at night* its song is more peculiarly its own. It is in accordance with this impression that *two* songs of the mocking-bird are given in the text. See forwards.

It ought, however, to be mentioned, that different accounts are given of this bird's song. Mr. SOUTHEY, in his Madoc, has thus alluded to the Mocking-bird:

"Or gladlier now
Hearkening that chearful one, who knoweth all
The songs of all the winged choristers
And in one sequence of melodious sounds
Pours all their music."

Madoc, vol. ii. page 48.

The GROUND-PIGEONS tiny, from mountainous nest,
Came also to visit the KING of the WEST.
In notes of sad seeming the BLUE-TURTLE-DOVE
Evinc'd for his mate most affectionate love.
Of the PASSENGERS, too, many myriads were there,
And in cloudy-wav'd columns they darken'd the air.

In a note, page 235, of the same volume, Mr. SOUTHEY mentions DAVIS'S *Travels in America*, and the *Mocking-bird.* A negress was heard to exclaim, "Please God Almighty, how sweet that mocking-bird sing! he never tire."

"By day and night it sings alike; when weary of mocking others the bird takes up its own natural strain, and so joyous a creature is it that it will jump and dance to its own music. The bird is perfectly domestic, the Americans holding it sacred." "Would," exclaims Mr. SOUTHEY, "that we had more of these humane prejudices in England—if that word may be applied to a feeling so good in itself and in its tendency."

The native notes of this bird, WILSON informs us, consist of short expressions of two, three, or, at the most, of five or six syllables, generally interspersed with imitations, and all of them uttered with great emphasis and rapidity, and are continued with undiminished ardour for half an hour or an hour at a time. They have considerable resemblance to those of the *Brown-Thrush*, another American bird, but may be easily distinguished by their greater rapidity, sweetness, energy, and variety; both are called in many parts of the United States, *Mocking-bird;* but the brown thrush is the *French*, the other the *English* mocking-bird. While this bird sings, his expanded wings and tail, his buoyant gaiety of action, arrest the eye as his song irresistibly does the ear; he mounts or descends as his song dies away;—he bounds aloft with the celerity of an arrow." (BARTRAM.)

His imitations are wonderfully like the notes of the birds whom he imitates, so that the sportsmen are frequently deceived

Besides these, many more came from regions remote,
But whom to description we cannot devote.
Some sent by the Pigeon excuses to make;
Some alleged inability journies to take:

by him. He loses little of his power and energy by confinement. He whistles for the dog; he squeaks out like a hurt chicken: the mewing of a cat, the creaking of a wheelbarrow, the quivering notes of the canary, the clear whistling of the Virginian nightingale, are alike by him distinctly and accurately expressed.

Both in his native and his domesticated state, during the stillness of night, as soon as the moon rises, he begins his solo, and during the whole of the night makes the neighbourhood ring with his inimitable melody.

There is very little difficulty in rearing these birds in America. The eagerness with which they are sought after in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia has rendered them extremely scarce for many miles around that city. They have been known also to pair and breed there in confinement. The price paid for a mocking-bird at Philadelphia has been from seven to fifteen dollars; *fifty* have been paid for a remarkably fine singer.

We learn from a paper in the *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. lxii. part ii. page 284, by the Hon. Daines Barrington, that a mocking-bird was once to be heard in London; but here, it seems, his notes were chiefly if not entirely the imitations of the notes of other birds: "his pipe," says Mr. Barrington, "comes nearest to our nightingale of any bird I have ever met with." It is also, I understand, now to be seen occasionally in London. A keeper of a menagery informs me that he gave five pounds for one not long since.

As, the OSTRICH,(42) and EMEU, well known in the
east;
To credulity long both have furnished a feast;

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(42) ORDER, GRALLÆ, *(Linn.)* OSTRICH, EMEU, CASSOWARY, RHEA.

The genus STRUTHIO, *(Linn.)* or OSTRICH, is arranged by Dr. LATHAM as a separate order, (STRUTHIONES,) consisting, with the *Dodo*, of four genera. It comprehends, without the *Dodo*, five species, not only the OSTRICH so called, but also the EMEU, the CASSOWARY, and the RHEA. This tribe has been arranged under the order GALLINÆ by some authors. Its characteristics are a subconic bill; oval nostrils; wings unfit for flight; feet formed for running. They are as follow: (the *Dodo* is described in the next note.)

The *Camelus*, OSTRICH, BLACK, or AFRICAN-OSTRICH, has the feet two-toed; plumage of the *male* black; quill feathers and those of the tail perfectly white: plumage of the *female* ash-colour; wings and tail black; height from the top of the head to the ground from seven to nine feet; length from the beak to the top of the tail the same; weight from eighty to one hundred and fifty pounds, or perhaps more, and is said to be the largest of birds. It is found in Africa, and the parts of Asia adjoining, and in great plenty about the Cape of Good Hope. The female is larger than the male.

From its scanty plumage and its great weight it cannot rise in the air; the covering of the body of this bird is composed of downy hairs; the thighs are large and muscular; the legs scaly; the toes thick, having a striking similarity to those of a goat; the inner toe, including the claw, is seven inches; the other, which is without a claw, is about four inches long; the eyelids are furnished with hairs; on the breast is a callous, bare, and hard substance, serving the bird to rest on when it bends forward to sit on the ground; on each wing are two spurs, about an inch in length.

Their structure—their manners from fable apart,
Are wondrous—then wherefore embellish with art?

It is said that it never drinks. In its natural state grains and fruit are its principal food; but it will swallow, in confinement, almost every thing, and that with greediness, such as bits of iron, copper, glass, lead, &c. which sometimes prove fatal to it; it swallows pebbles in its natural state, most probably to assist the comminution of its food, like many other birds, although its interior structure has, it is said, a great affinity to that of quadrupeds. In some of our books of natural history it is stated that the heart and lungs of this bird are separated by a diaphragm; but Mr. BROOKES, in a lecture at the Zoological Society, April 25, 1827, on the Ostrich which was lately dissected there, stated that the thorax and abdomen were not separated by a diaphragm; and the drawing which he exhibited of the bird confirmed his statement. He also stated, as a remarkable fact, that the intestinal canal of the Ostrich was generally about eighty feet in length, while that of the Cassowary was considerably shorter. The rings in the trachea of this bird exceeded 200 in number; its height was more than nine feet. See page 51.

This bird was a female, which had been in the possession of his Majesty for about two years; it died of obesity, and, from its appearance, its weight must have been, it is presumed, more than 150 pounds. Many gentlemen partook of the flesh. The sexual organs and the kidneys differ, it is said, materially from other birds; it has also two stomachs; the first is muscular, and appears to act by trituration, in the other there is a gastric liquor.

This bird prefers for its residence those mountainous and parched deserts which are never refreshed by rain. In those solitary regions they are seen in vast flocks, and are there hunted on fleet Arabian horses, for their blood, their fat, and the feathers found in the wings and tail; these last have been sought after more or less in all ages; it is said, however, that this bird

But whether the timid, tall RHEA was there,
As faithful historian, I cannot declare.
Still, still doth the *hunter*, and thinks it no crime,
This tribe closely pursue.—Oh, when come shall the time,

is occasionally domesticated, and that the finest feathers are those obtained from the domesticated bird, from which they are cut about thrice in two years. The skin is substituted for leather by the Arabians. The flesh is said to be but indifferent food, and eaten only by the Africans. The cry of this bird is similar to that of a lion, but shorter.

Various accounts of the eggs and incubation of this bird have been published; the following is the most authentic, for which I am indebted to Dr. LATHAM's work. The male is polygamous, and, as has been stated, most probably highly salacious, he being frequently found with two or three, or even five, females, who lay their eggs, which are white, in concert, to the number of ten or twelve each, which they all hatch together, the male taking his turn of sitting among them; between sixty and seventy eggs have been found in one nest. The egg holds five pints and a quarter of liquid. Small oval pebbles, the size of a pea, of a pale yellow colour, are often found in the eggs; from nine to twelve of these have been found, according to Mr. Barrow, in one egg. The time of incubation is six weeks. This takes place, it is said, at different times of the year, depending upon the climate and latitude, whether north or south; it is also said that the mode of incubation is different in different places; thus, in very warm climates, the bird scarcely sits upon her eggs at all, the heat of the sun being sufficient to bring the young bird to maturity; that, as the climate increases in coldness, the female is more assiduous in her attentions.

Notwithstanding its size, it is generally considered, and indeed is, a very stupid bird, displaying little intelligence or ingenuity of any kind; and, although it is occasionally ridden

That man, with superior intelligence fraught,
On such occupation shall not waste a thought:
When death, if the animal for him must die,
Shall be sudden and safe, and escape in a sigh?*

like a horse in its native climate, it is said to be very unmanageable and untractable.

> "O'er the wild waste the stupid *ostrich* strays,
> In devious search to pick her scanty meal,
> Whose fierce digestion gnaws the temper'd steel."
> MICKLE's *Lusiad*, Book v.

Such statements, often made, that this bird can digest steel or iron, are founded in mistake; it is true the bird will swallow pieces of iron, but there is no evidence whatever that they are digested.

The *Rhea*, EMEU, RHEA, AMERICAN-EMEU, or AMERICAN-OSTRICH, is grey above, beneath white; it has three toes on each foot, and a round callus behind. It is by far the largest bird found in the American continent, it being about six feet high; the neck is long, head small, beak flat; but, in other respects, resembles the Cassowary. Its voracity and speed are similar to the Ostrich. Found in almost every part of South America.

The nest is in a large hole in the ground, often with a little

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* The *hunting* of BIRDS with dogs, except as setters, is, in this country, not now, I believe, practised; it is devoutly to be hoped that the *hunting of other animals* will ultimately give way to a superior intelligence and the benevolent affections. The author, when a school-boy, remembers being *once* on a hunting excursion, and never but once; that once was, for him, sufficient: the *hare was eaten up alive by the dogs!* he will never forget the horror with which he beheld one of the *gentlemen hunters* exhibit *a leg, the only part left*, with the fibres still quivering. See the HOUSE-SPARROW'S SPEECH.

The PARROTS, too, came, not of *Afric* or *Ind ;*
Yet loth their description the muse to rescind :
The ATERRIMUS, prince of the *Psittacid* tribe ;—
The SCARLET rob'd LORY its name will describe ;—

straw at the bottom, on which the eggs are laid ; from sixty to eighty have been found in one nest, and hence it has been supposed that several females contribute to produce them, and that each female lays sixteen or seventeen eggs; the egg contains about two pints of liquid. The flesh of the young is reckoned good eating. It defends itself with its feet; and calls its young by a kind of hiss. They are exceedingly swift, and with difficulty caught. This is a separate genus in Dr. Latham's work, and there called EMEU.

The *Casuarius*, EMEU, CASSOWARY, or GALEATED-CASSOWARY, is brownish-black; it has three toes on each foot; helmets and dewlaps naked. From the shortness of the legs and neck, it is not so tall as the Ostrich; but its body is more heavy and clumsy. Its *helmet* is the most remarkable of its characteristics; it reaches from the base of the bill to the crown, is nearly three inches in height, and at the root three in thickness. The wings are still shorter than those of the Ostrich, and, of course, cannot assist the bird to fly; they are furnished with four hard pointed feathers resembling darts; the feet are also armed with large claws; it is, nevertheless, peaceable and inoffensive; never attacking others; when attacked kicks like a horse; pushing down its assailant by running against him, and grunting like swine; it is as voracious as the preceding species. Eggs numerous, ash-coloured, or greenish spotted, some are white, about fifteen inches in circumference one way, by twelve the other; shells more thin and brittle than those of the Ostrich. Found in the eastern parts of Asia towards the south, and the Molucca Islands; never met with out of the torrid zone.

The *Novæ Hollandiæ*, NEW-HOLLAND-CASSOWARY, *Emeu of New South Wales*, *Southern Cassowary*, or EMEU, is nearly as tall

The BANKSIAN, black, crested, and bold COCKATOO,
With side tail-feathers ting'd of a bright crimson hue,
'Midst the woods of Australia delighting to rove;—
Have never been seen in an occident grove.
Some few ABSENTEES to be named remain still:
The uncouth DODO(43) came not, nor JEALOUS-HORNBILL;

as the black Ostrich, being not less than seven feet ten inches high: like the rest of the genus, it runs with prodigious speed; the bill is black; head, neck, and body, covered with bristly feathers, varied with brown and grey; throat nakedish, bluish; wings hardly visible; legs brown. Inhabits New Holland, where it is hunted with dogs, the skull or the jaw of which, according to WENTWORTH, it sometimes fractures by a single kick; the flesh is good; its weight varies from sixty to one hundred and twenty pounds. It abounds with oil, which is used for leather and other purposes.

The *Casuarius Diemenianus*, (*Lath.*) or VAN-DIEMEN'S LAND CASSOWARY, is not so large as the preceding, but much exceeds the bustard in size; its general colour is dark brown, with a tinge of blue or grey; it has neither wings nor tail; legs stout, dirty bluish; toes three, all placed forwards; flesh said to be well tasted; eggs numerous, and very delicate; inhabits Van Diemen's Land.

The three last species are arranged under one genus by Dr. LATHAM.

(42) ORDER, GALLINÆ, (*Linn.*) DODO, the HOODED, the SOLITARY, the NAZARENE.

The genus DIDUS, (*Linn.*) or DODO, consists of three species only; they have the bill narrowed in the middle, with two transverse wrinkles, each mandible bent in at the tip; nostrils oblique; face naked beyond the eyes; legs short, thick; feet cleft; wings unfit for flight; tailless. They are arranged by

As cruel as jealous, fierce conirost he;
Woe, woe to the lady, if foot mark should be! (44)

Dr. Latham among the struthious tribe. Their specific characters are as follow:

The *Ineptus*, DRONTE, or HOODED-DODO, has the head hooded; bill strong, large, and bluish, with a red spot; plumage black, waved with whitish; feathers of the rump curled, inclining to yellow; clawless; three feet long; inhabits the Isles of France and Bourbon.

The *Solitarius*, or SOLITARY-DODO, is varied with grey and brown; feet four-toed; spurious wings, terminating in a round protuberance. Female with a white protuberance each side the breast resembling a teat; size of a turkey; never found in flocks; egg one, larger than that of a goose; time of incubation seven weeks, at which process the male and female assist in turn; the young are delicious food, for which they are hunted between March and September; inhabits the island of Rodrique.

The *Nazarenus*, or NAZARENE DODO, is larger than the Swan; colour black, downy; lays on the ground, in a nest made of dry leaves and grass, one large egg; inhabits the Isle of France.

(44) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Linn.*) HORN-BILL, the PHILIPPINE, the INDIAN, the UNDULATE.

The genus BUCEROS, (*Linn.*) or HORN-BILL, consists of twenty-seven species, chiefly inhabitants of Asia and Africa. They have a convex, curved, sharp-edged, large bill, serrate outwardly, with a *horny* protuberance on the upper mandible near the base; tongue short, sharp-pointed; feet gressorial. Besides feeding on fruit, they are said also to devour mice, small birds, reptiles, and even carcasses. The chief are the following:

The *Bicornis*, or PHILIPPINE-HORNBILL, of which there are two varieties. The *first*, is above black, beneath white, quill feathers with a white spot; double horned at the fore part; size of a common hen; inhabits the Philippine isles. The *second*,

The WATTLE-BIRD (45) hiss'd in Australian groves;
And the SHEATH-BILL (46) was seeking for shell-fish
he loves.

has the bill vermilion, back and rump ash-brown; belly black; feeds on fruit, which it swallows whole, and, after digesting the bulk, casts up the stones; has a voice resembling the grunting of a swine, or the bellowing of a calf; said to be worshipped by the Indians.

The *Hydrocorax,* or INDIAN-HORNBILL, inhabiting the Molucca Islands, has the protuberance flattened forwards; it is two feet four inches long; frequently tamed to destroy rats and mice; it feeds on the wild nutmeg, which renders its flesh peculiarly aromatic.

The *Undulata,* or UNDULATE-HORNBILL, called by the natives of Java, the JEALOUS-HORNBILL, feeds the female during her incubation; and, during his absence in search of food, should he find, on his return, the marks of another bird near the nest, he will, it is said, inclose the female in the nest, and leave her to perish.—HORSFIELD.

(45) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath*) WATTLE-BIRD.

The genus CALLŒUS, (*Lath.*) or WATTLE-BIRD, consists of one species only, the *Cinerea,* or CINEREOUS-WATTLE-BIRD; it has an incurvate arched bill, the lower mandible shorter and carunculate beneath at the base; nostrils depressed, half covered with a subcartilaginous membrane; tongue subcartilaginous, split and fringed at the top; feet ambulatory; length fifteen inches; walks on the ground, seldom perches on trees; feeds on berries, insects, and small birds; makes a hissing and murmuring noise; flesh good; inhabits New Zealand and Australasia.

(46) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Lath.*) SHEATH-BILL.

The genus VAGINALIS, (*Lath.*) or SHEATH-BILL, consists of one species only, the *Alba,* or WHITE-SHEATH-BILL. It is

The NEW-HOLLAND MENURA (47) in meadow or wood,
Or on Van Diemen mountains, was seeking its food;
And, perchance, even now, undiscovered remain,
On that CONTINENT-ISLE*—some Australian plain;—
Or where bursts the huge stream from the mountain's
cleft side;—
Where, through woodlands and meadows its waters
may glide;—
Unable to swim, and unable to fly,
Many groups that description at present defy.

distinguished by a short, thick, conic, compressed bill, the upper mandible covered above with a moveable horny sheath; nostrils small, placed before the sheath; tongue above round, beneath flattened, pointed at the tip; face naked, papillous; wings with an obtuse excrescence under the flexure; legs strong; four toed; from fifteen to eighteen inches long; feeds on shell-fish and carcasses; inhabits New Zealand and the South Sea Islands.

(47) ORDER, GALLINÆ, (*Lath.*) NEW-HOLLAND MENURA.

The genus MENURA, (*Lath.*) consists of one species only, the *Novæ Hollandiæ*, NEW-HOLLAND MENURA, or *Mountain-Pheasant.* It has a stout conico-convex black bill, and oval nostrils; legs long, black, very strong, formed for walking, and covered with large scales; a long tail, consisting of sixteen loose webbed feathers, the two middle ones narrow, and greatly exceeding the others in length; the outer one on each side broader and curved at the end; size of a hen pheasant; the whole length more than three feet and a half; plumage above brown, fore part of the neck rufous, beneath brownish-ash. The female, in colour, resembles the male, but is much smaller. Found in the *mountainous* districts of New Holland, where it is said to be

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* NEW HOLLAND, or AUSTRALIA.

Yet the CHANNEL-BILL(48) came from a region as far;
And that scansor too came, the long-bill'd JACAMAR.(49)

rare; flesh supposed to be good; but we want more information concerning this, most probably valuable, bird.

(48) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) CHANNEL-BILL.

The genus SCYTHROPS, (*Lath.*) or CHANNEL-BILL, consists of one species only, the *Psittacus,* which is found in New South Wales. It has a large, convex, sharp-edged, pale-brown bill, tipt with yellowish and channeled at the sides, point hooked; nostrils naked, rounded at the base; tongue cartilaginous, split at the point; feet scansile; head, neck, and upper parts of the body pale bluish-grey; back, wings, and tail, cinereous; size of a crow, but, from its long tail, its whole length is two feet two inches.

(49) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) JACAMAR.

Of the genus GALBULA, (*Lath.*) or JACAMAR, five species have been described; inhabitants of South America. They have a straight, very long, quadrangular bill; tongue short, sharp-pointed; thighs downy on the fore part; feet scansile. They are generally about the size of a lark, and feed on insects; some of them fly in pairs.

(50) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Lath.*) COLY.

The genus COLIUS, (*Lath.*) or COLY, consists of eleven species; they have a short thick bill, convex above and flat beneath, upper mandible bent down at the tip; tail long, wedged; toes three before, one behind, but capable of being occasionally varied so as to have all in front. These birds live universally on fruits, not feeding on grains or insects; they are gregarious even during incubation, their nests being made in society; they do not perch like other birds, or leap from branch to branch; nor do they even walk nimbly; for, resting on the whole length of the leg, they drag the belly after them. They grow very fat, are well flavoured, and much sought after

But nor COLY(50) nor UMBRE (51) would daringly brave
The breeze of the west, and Atlantic's high wave.
Nor could come from the south, with his rudiment wing,
The PINGUIN (52) unwieldy, to honour the king.

as food. They are inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope, Senegal, and India. These birds are called at the Cape, *Mouse Birds,* from their soft plumage and their frequently creeping about the roots of trees. The *Leuconotus,* or WHITE-BACKED-COLY, is twelve inches long; its general plumage bluish-ash; eggs five or six, rose-coloured; inhabits the Cape of Good Hope.

(51) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Lath.*) UMBRE.

The genus SCOPUS, (*Lath.*) or UMBRE, consists of one species only, the *Umbretta,* or TUFTED-UMBRE; it has a long, thick, compressed bill, a little hooked; nostrils linear, oblique; feet four-toed, cleft; a thick, tufted, lax crest; body brown; tail obscurely barred; twenty inches long; legs longish; female not crested; inhabits Africa.

(52) ORDER, PALMIPEDES, (*Lath.*) PINGUIN.

The genus APTENODYTES, (*Lath.*) PINGUIN, or *Penguin,* which consists of fifteen species, is distinguished by a straight bill, wings fin-shaped, without quill feathers; feet fettered, four-toed; tail short, wedged; feathers very rigid; is seen only in the temperate and frigid zones of the *southern* hemisphere; the same as may be said of the *auk* in the *northern* hemisphere: none of either of these genera of birds has been, it is said, observed within the tropics. Notwithstanding there is a great similarity between this genus and the *alca,* or *auk,* there is, nevertheless, one peculiarity which decidedly distinguishes the Pinguin from the last-named bird: the *Pinguin,* while swimming, sinks quite above the breast, the head and neck only appearing, while the *auk,* in common with other aquatic birds, swims on the surface. It is remarkably dexterous in the water, yet it is a stupid race of birds, and, when on land, easily taken. Some of this tribe lay their eggs in the deserted nest of the Albatross; see note (14). The following deserve notice:

Nor that tiny *Hirundinid*, he of the east,
Of his tribe the most singular, while, too, the least;
Not, like martins or swallows, with clay or with loam,
Such vulgar materials! constructs he his dome:
Within walls of pure gelatine, little beside,
The ESCULENT-SWALLOW* delights to reside;

The *Demersa*, or CAPE-PINGUIN, is twenty-one inches long; plumage above black, of the head and throat dirty grey; breast, belly, and tail, white; the two short appendages in place of wings black above, white on the lower edge, white varied with black beneath. Swims and dives well, but hops and flutters in a strange awkward manner on land, and, if hurried, stumbles perpetually; will frequently run for some distance like a quadruped, making use of the finny wings instead of legs, crying out like a goose, but in a much hoarser voice. Said to clamber some way up the rocks to make a nest, in doing which it assists with the bill. Eggs two, white, size of a duck, very good; these birds are sometimes kept tame, but do not survive the confinement many months. Inhabits the Cape of Good Hope.

The *Magellanica*, or MAGELLANIC-PINGUIN, is two feet or more long, and weighs eleven pounds; voice not unlike the braying of an ass; flesh not unpalatable, but of a musky flavour. Eggs size of a goose, and laid in pairs, are good; they are deposited in places where many of the tribe associate. Inhabits Falkland Islands.

The *Chrysocome*, CRESTED-PINGUIN, or HOPPING-PINGUIN, is a beautiful bird, twenty-three inches long, inhabiting the Falkland Islands, the Isle of Desolation, New Holland, &c. Called Hopping from its habit of leaping quite out of the water on meeting with the least resistance.

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* For an account of this bird, see page 158; for its nest, see the Introduction, page 23.

While mandarins, monarchs, demand oft his nest,
Which to luxury ministers many a zest.
Nor whispers report that those *textors* were there,
Who rich, bombycine filaments, choose with much care:
Those WEAVER-BIRDS (53) that, with a tapestry select,
The walls of their prisons have often bedeck'd.

The *Patachonica*, or PATAGONIAN-PINGUIN, is the largest of the genus, being above four feet long, and weighs forty pounds. Back of a deep ash colour, each feather bluish at the tip; beneath pure white; on each side of the head, beginning under the eye, and behind it, is a broad stripe of fine yellow; usually found very fat; flesh black, though not very unpalatable. Found in the Falkland Islands, New Georgia, &c.

The *Australis*, or APTEROUS-PINGUIN, (called *Apterix Australis* in Shaw's Zoology,) is the size of a goose; the rudiments of wings quite hid in the plumage. Inhabits New Zealand.

(53) The *Oriolus textor*, (*Lath.*) WEAVER, or WEEVER ORIOLE, is the size of the Golden-oriole; body orange-yellow; quills and tail dusky, edged with orange; legs flesh colour. Inhabits Senegal. Works silk between the wires of its cage; it prefers green and yellow to any other colour.

The *Emberiza textrix*, (*Lath.*) WEAVER-BUNTING, or WEAVER-BIRD, is the size of a house-sparrow; bill and legs horn-colour; over each eye and down the middle of the crown a streak of yellow; sides of the head mottled yellow and black; rump and under parts yellow: on the middle of the breast a broad black streak, a little divaricated at the sides; tail dusky. In the winter the yellow disappears and the bird becomes very like a common sparrow. Supposed to be a native of Africa. This bird, like the *Weaver-oriole*, weaves silk in a curious manner between the wires of its cage, whence it has obtained, as well as the Oriole, its *specific* name. It is occasionally to be seen in cages in this country. I have not been able to acquire any information concerning its nest, eggs, nor any other of its habits.

Still remains a small niche in the temple of fame,
For a few whom we here seek permission to name.
The rare PLANTAIN-EATER (54) of beautiful hues,
Consisting of purple and violet-blues;—
The CREAM-COLOURED COURSER, (55) of Europe the
guest;—
And the AFRICAN FIN-FOOT; (56) one too of the west;

(54) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) PLANTAIN-EATER.

Of the genus MUSOPHAGA, (*Lath.*) or PLANTAIN-EATER, two species have been described. One, the *Violacea*, or VIOLET-PLANTAN-EATER, is a beautiful bird, distinguished by a short, triangular, yellow bill; tongue entire, stout; toes three before, one behind; length nineteen inches, of which the tail makes more than six; the top of the head purple; neck, breast, body, and wings, violet; prime quill feathers purple in the middle. Found in Guinea, and said to live principally on the plantain; it is a very rare bird.

(55) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Lath.*) PLOVER, the CREAM-COLOURED, &c.

The genus CURSORIUS, (*Lath.*) or COURSER, consists of four species; they differ chiefly from the genus *Charadrius*, or PLOVER, in the shape of the bill, which is sharp, bent at the point, and slender. The *Europæus*, or CREAM-COLOURED PLOVER, is ten inches long, the general plumage cream-colour, palest beneath; inhabits Europe, though a rare bird; once taken in France. The *Asiaticus*, or COROMANDEL-PLOVER, is the size of the preceding. The head and fore parts, as far as the breast, a reddish-chesnut; chin white; back, wings, and tail brown, upper part of the belly dusky, the rest, beneath, rump, and tip of the tail, white; quills black. Inhabits Coromandel.

(56) ORDER, PINNATIPEDES, (*Lath.*) FIN-FOOT, the AFRICAN, the AMERICAN.

The genus *Pteropus*, or FIN-FOOT, of Dr. LATHAM, con-

The COUCAL GIGANTIC, (57) Australia's own;—
The ash-grey CEREOPSIS; (58) there also well known;

sists of two species; the bill is moderately curved and elongated; nostrils linear; body depressed; tail somewhat cuneiform; legs short; toes four, three before, one behind, and furnished with an indented or scolloped membrane. They are as follow: The *Africanus*, or AFRICAN FIN-FOOT, is the size of a coot; length eighteen inches; bill formed like that of a diver; plumage above brown, with several buff coloured spots, margined with black, chin and throat white, beneath rufous; inhabits Africa. The *Surinamensis*, or AMERICAN FIN-FOOT, *Surinam-Darter, Surinam-Tern*, or *Sun-bird*, is the size of a teal; inhabits Surinam; known there by the name of *Sun-bird;* from its frequently expanding the tail and wings, at the same time, it has been thought to resemble that luminary. See a further description of this bird under *Darter*, note (21), page 343.

(57) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) COUCAL, the GIANT, the PHEASANT.

The genus *Polophilus*, or COUCAL, of Dr. LATHAM, is allied to the cuckoo tribe, and consists of seventeen species; the beak is strong and slightly curved; nostrils straight, elongated; toes two forwards, two behind, the interior furnished with a long claw. The *Gigas*, GIANT, or GIGANTIC COUCAL, is thirty inches long; inhabits New Holland. The *Phasianus*, PHEASANT-COUCAL, *Pheasant-Cuckoo*, or *Pheasant*, inhabits also New Holland; it is about eighteen inches long.

(58) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Lath.*) CEREOPSIS.

The genus CEREOPSIS, (*Lath.*) consists of one species only, the *Novæ Hollandiæ*, or NEW HOLLAND-CEREOPSIS; it has a short convex bill, bent at the tip; head wholly covered beyond the ears with a rough yellow skin or cere; at the bent of the

In his crimson and black too the BARBICAN(59) bright;
The ERODIA, (60) both active and handsome, in white;

wing a blunt knob; tail short, legs stout; toes cloven; size of a small goose; length nearly three feet; plumage ash-grey, beneath paler; legs orange colour. Inhabits New Holland. Flesh good.

(59) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) BARBICAN, the ABYSSINIAN.

The genus *Pogonius*, or BARBICAN, of Dr. LATHAM, consists of six species, distinguished by a very stout and bent bill; toes, two before, two behind. Most of these were formerly arranged under the genus BARBET. The *Saltii (Bucco Saltii,)* ABYSSINIAN-BARBICAN, or *Abyssinian-Barbet*, is the most worthy of notice. The general colour is a fine glossy black; forehead, as far as the crown, sides, including the eyes, chin, and throat, fine crimson; upper wing coverts black, edged with white, quills dusky, the outer margin fringed for the most part with yellow; length seven inches; observed to cling about branches of trees like the woodpecker. Brought from Abyssinia by Mr. SALT.

(60) ORDER, GRALLÆ, (*Lath.*) ERODY, the ABYSSINIAN, the PONDICHERRY.

The genus *Erodia*, or ERODY, (*Lath.*) consists of three species; they have a bill nearly straight; sharp at the end, the two mandibles not closing the whole of their length; face covered with feathers; legs long; middle toe connected to the inner by a membrane as the first, and to the outer to the second joint; hind toe long.

The *Amphilensis*, or ABYSSINIAN-ERODY, is the size of the Avoset; length fifteen inches; the plumage generally white, but the back, as far as the middle, is black. Found

The Scansor MALKOHA, (61) beneath the fierce sun,
Indigenous found in the isle of Ceylon :
Unknown whether all, whether any were seen
O'er the dell's winding course, on its trees' shady green.
In such an assembly—birds various and rare,
Various habits and manners, of course, too, were there;
There was kindness and gentleness—insolence loud;
There was pert, noisy ignorance—sullenness proud;
There was elegance graceful, and airiness light;
And affection in robes neither splendid nor bright;

in the Bay of Amphila in Abyssinia; feeds on marine productions. They are handsome active birds.

The *Pondiceriana*, PONDICHERRY-ERODY, or PONDICHERRY-HERON, and the INDIAN-ERODY, twenty-two inches long, with plumage dusky-white; lower part of the back, quills, outer edge of the wings, and tail, black; inhabit India.

(61) ORDER, PICÆ, (*Lath.*) MALKOHA.

The genus *Phœnicophaus*, or MALKOHA, of Dr. LATHAM, consists of five species; they have a stout bill, longer than the head, curved from the base and smooth edged; nostrils linear near the margin; wings short; toes two before, two behind. The following is the chief:

The *Pyrrhocephalus*, RED-HEADED-MALKOHA, or *Red-headed-Cuckoo*, is sixteen inches long; sides of the head and round the eyes wholly bare of feathers, appearing rough or granulated, and of a reddish-orange colour; plumage above greenish-black, beneath white; tail very long; the feathers, for some length towards the tip, white. Inhabits Ceylon, where it is called *Malkoha*.

There was gallantry, too, that the soul might entrance;
And love shot his bright and his heart-thrilling glance.
The great LORD himself, who was quite at his ease,
Seem'd to say to his VASSALS "now do as you please!"
The signal thus given, many BIRDS of the throng
Sought various diversion the cool shades among.
Some flew in high circles; some leap'd; others sang;
And the BELL-BIRDS repeated their loud and harsh
clang.
To the wood pensive lovers in silence retir'd,
To hear the warm vows long and often desir'd.
The PARROTS (62) were prating, of what who may
know?
The MACAWS on the palms made a beautiful show:

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(62) ORDER, PICÆ, *(Linn.)* PARROT, COCKATOO, LORY, PAROQUET, MACAW, &c.

The genus PSITTACUS, (*Linn.*) or PARROT, comprehends nearly two hundred and forty species; the distinguishing characteristics of the tribe are a hooked bill, the upper mandible as well as the lower moveable and not connected, and in one piece with the skull, as in most other birds, but is joined to the head by a strong membrane on each side, which lifts and depresses it at pleasure; feet formed for climbing. The genus may also be subdivided into those having a long wedge-shaped tail; and those with a short tail equal at the end, including the *Cockatoos* and *Lories*, generally, but not altogether.

The Parrot is an intratropical bird, and generally found within from twenty-four to twenty-five degrees of latitude on each side of the equator. Yet there are some exceptions to this: it is occasionally seen as far south as the straights of *Magellan*, in Van

One in robes of rich purple, of azure and gold—
Such, the eye became dazzled its tints to behold;

Diemen's Land, and on the Ohio. Although it lives in temperate climates it does not frequently breed there. It is remarkable too in this race of birds, that those in the new world are totally distinct from those of the old; a proof that the Parrot has not great powers of flight; indeed, it is said, that several islands in the West Indies have their peculiar Parrots, they not being able to fly from one island to another. They are, in their native climates, the most numerous of the feathered tribes.

It will be impossible in this note to do justice to the genus; I must, therefore, content myself with a summary of their most striking characteristics; parrots are, besides, so extremely well known in this country, that a long description of them is rendered for this reason much less necessary; their power of imitating the human voice, and other sounds, is well known; but it may be observed that almost all the sounds which they utter, at least those which they utter in this countiy, are extremely harsh and discordant; and for a long continuance very disagreeable.

The beauty of their plumage has always and deservedly been much admired. They are, however, so various in size as well as in colours, that it would be endless to recount their numerous gradations.

> "The Parrots swung like blossoms on the trees."
> MONTGOMERY'S *Pelican Island.*

In its wild state, the parrot feeds on almost every kind of fruit and grain; but, of all food, it is said to be the fondest of *carthamus*, or bastard saffron, which, though strongly purgative to man, agrees with it very well. It is liable to various diseases; many of them are said to die of epilepsy; it is, nevertheless, very long lived; some have attained the age of sixty years, or more; from twenty to thirty years is their more common period of existence,

The Illinois-Parrot, in bright silky green,
With fine yellow tints, blue reflections was seen;

after which the bill, it is said, becomes so much hooked that they lose the power of taking food.

Parrots build, for the most part, in the hollow of rotten trees; when the tree is not fully rotten, and the hole not large enough for their reception, they widen it with their bills; the nest is lined with feathers. They can only be successfully tamed when taken young. The flesh of parrots, it is said, always partakes of the peculiar taste of their food; some of the small tribes of *Paroquets* are occasionally sought after by the savages (at the time they feed upon the ripe *guava*) as delicate food.

An account has lately appeared in the newspapers of a Parrot that died in this country at the age of seventy-seven.

The *taste* of parrots appears to be more acute than that of most other birds, they being more choice in the selection of parts of the food which is given them, than the generality of birds.

Parrots have, from the splendour of their colours, and from their loquacity, much excited the attention of mankind. A poem entitled *Ver-Vert,* or the *Nunnery Parrot,* written in French, by Gresset, has also numerous admirers; it was translated into easy verse by Cooper, and since by Dr. Geddes; the first translation is to be preferred:

"Beauteous he was, and debonnair,
Light, spruce, inconstant, gay, and free,
And unreserved as youngsters are,
Ere age brings on hypocrisy;
In short a bird from prattling merit,
Worthy a convent to inherit."

Canto I.

The Paradise-Parrot in splendour was bright;
Paroquets, Popinjays, wore the plumes of delight.

The following summary will complete this notice of the Parrot tribe:

The common names of Parrots are very various; they are known as *Cockatoos*, *Lories*, *Paroquets*, *Macaws*, *Amazons*, *Criks*, *Popinjays*, *Parrots*, *&c.*

The *Cristatus*, or Yellow-Crested-Cockatoo, is white, with a yellow crest; eighteen inches long; crest five; the gentlest and the most docile of the tribe. Found in all the tropical regions of India. The Cockatoos are the largest Parrots of the old continent. The *Aterrimus*, Black-Cockatoo, or *Indian-Crow*, is more than three feet long; whole body black. Found chiefly in New Holland. The *Erythacus*, Hoary-Parrot, or *Jaco*, of which there are several varieties, is most frequently imported into Europe at present, and, when properly taught, is a good adept at language. The body is a beautiful grey; length twenty inches. It is a native of Africa.

The *Garrulus*, Ceram, or *Scarlet-Lory*, of which there are many varieties, is a native of the Moluccas; its general colour is red; it is the most spirited and gay of the whole race: the name *Lory* is given to it from such sounds being frequently repeated by this bird. The *Guineensis*, or Yellow-breasted-Lory, is found chiefly in New Guinea and the Molucca Islands; ten inches long; from its beautiful plumage, and the ease with which it may be taught to speak, it generally obtains in Europe a great price; a single bird has, it is said, been sold for twenty guineas! The *Alexandri*, or Alexandrine-Parrot, is green; found in the South of Asia and Ceylon: this bird was well known to the Romans in the time of Pliny.

The *Macao*, or Red-and-Blue-Macaw, is one of the most superb of the Parrot tribe: the purple, the gold and the azure, excite no ordinary interest; it is nearly three feet long. Eggs

The GOATSUCKERS' notes, too, were now heard again;
And the WOODPECKERS uttered their dissonant
strain.

two, which it lays twice a year, about the size of a pigeon's; the male and female share alternately the office of incubation. Found within the tropics in America and the West Indies. The *Æstivus*, AMAZON, or *Common-Parrot*, is green, slightly spotted with yellow; there are many varieties. The *Ochrocephalus*, or YELLOW-HEADED-PARROT, belongs to the class called *Criks* by the French writers; this, and the Amazon, or Common Parrot, are, of all the *American* Parrots, most easily taught to speak.

The *Popinjays* are distinguished from all the preceding by having no red on their wings. The *Paradisi*, or PARADISE-PARROT, is a very beautiful species of Popinjay; the whole body is yellow, and all the feathers bordered with a sort of gilding.

The *Paroquets* are extremely numerous and diversified; when properly tamed they are good speakers; one of this tribe laid once in England five or six small white eggs. The *Aureus*, or GOLDEN-PAROQUET, is a beautiful bird.

The *Carolinensis*, CAROLINA-PARROT, *Illinois-Parrot*, or *Carolina-Parakeet*, is said by WILSON to be the only one of this numerous tribe of birds found native within the territory of the United States; it is a very hardy bird; enduring cold much better than the generality of the tribe; it is found, however, chiefly in the states west of the Alleghany mountains. It is said to build in companies in hollow trees. This bird is thirteen inches long, and twenty-one in extent. The general colour of the plumage is a bright, yellowish, silky green, with light blue reflections; lightest and most diluted with yellow below.

The *Cookii*, or COOK'S-COCKATOO, (TEMMINCK, Linn. Transact. vol. xiii.) is a fine bird, a native of New Holland, a dried specimen of which is to be seen in the museum

Some WARBLERS were eager their carols to sing,
And thus they delighted the VULTURID KING.

of the Linnean Society; it is about twenty-two inches long; the general plumage is black; the feathers of the head long, and forming a fine crest; tail long, the two middle feathers of which are black, the others the same at the base and ends, but the middle, for more than one third of their length, a fine crimson.

This bird has been called, by some authors, BANKSIAN-COCKATOO, but very improperly as another, the *Psittacus Banksii*, is distinguished by that name. The *Banksian Cockatoo* mentioned in page 382 is the *Cookii* described above, and not the *Banksii;* this last is by no means so striking or splendid a bird as the former, and, therefore, it has not been deemed necessary to describe it.

It is to be regretted that those to whom the opportunity is given of bestowing names do not bestow them with more scientific discrimination. How much soever we may respect the names of COOK and BANKS, surely this bird might have a much more appropriate and discriminating *specific* terms applied to it: for example, *Psittacus niger;* or, if this name be already engaged, some other, equally discriminating and appropriate, should be given. In *science*, the practice of distinguishing *persons* rather than *facts* ought to be discarded. It was this mode of giving names that contributed to retard and obscure, for ages, the science of chemistry.

THE CANARY-BIRD'S SONG.

Fringilla Canaria.—(Linn.)

Let city birds in cages sing,
Such, such are not for me;
I love the freedom of the wing;
I love my liberty.

Be city birds, like monks immur'd,
Such life is not for me;
It cannot, will not be endur'd,
By love or liberty.

Let city birds luxurious live—
Do nothing—yet to me
No charm hath idleness to give;—
No charm hath luxury.

The pleasure of pursuit is much—
I love to seek my food;
I love to hear my neighbours touch
Their flutes in grove or wood.

Besides, I love to meet my fair
Within the shady dell,
At noontide eve or morning rare,
My tender tale to tell.

Of city birds then tell me not—
Their lives, their luxury;
I much prefer my country cot,
With love and liberty.

To pick seeds out of glass or gold,
To sing in marble hall,
Is what some birds, I have been told,
The highest pleasure call.

Give me, I have no other wish,
The freedom nature gave—
Her water and her simplest dish,
But make me not a slave.* (63)

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* BEATTIE has touch'd similar chords:

> "Rise sons of harmony and hail the morn,
> While warbling larks on russet pinions float
> Or seek, at noon, the woodland scene remote,
> Where the grey linnets carol from the hill.
> O let them ne'er, with artificial note,
> To please a tyrant, strain the little bill,
> But sing what heaven inspires and wander where they will."
> MINSTREL, *Book I.*

(63) ORDER, PASSERES, *(Linn.)* CANARY-BIRD.

The *Fringilla Canaria, (Linn.)* CANARY, CANARY-BIRD, or *Canary-Finch*, consists of two varieties; one having the bill and body straw-colour; quill and tail feathers greenish; the other with body above brown; eye-brows yellow. The prevailing colour of this bird is, however, *yellow*, mixed with *grey*; but, *in a state of nature*, it is said that it is chiefly *grey*. Other varieties, or rather, perhaps, *sub-varieties*, have been described to the number of nearly thirty, arising doubtless from domestication and admixture with other birds of the *Finch* and *Bunting* tribe. It is about the size of a goldfinch. The first variety inhabits the Canary islands, whence its name; the second variety, Africa, and it is said also St. Helena, where it sings much better than the common canary found in cages in this country. It is also found at Palma, Fayal, Cape Verd, and Madeira, as well as at the Canaries.

This bird is supposed to have been first brought into Europe in the thirteenth or fourteenth century; Gesner, who flourished in the sixteenth, is the first naturalist who mentions it; and when Aldrovandus published his work on birds in 1599, it was esteemed a great rarity. It is easily tamed, and is domesticated almost every where for its delicate plumage and beautiful song. It feeds on various seeds, chiefly on those of hemp and canary grass; it is prolific with most of the other species of the finch, and even with some which are usually considered as belonging to a different genus, such as the yellow-hammer, *Emberiza Citrinella.* The canary male is, however, more shy than the female, and will associate with no female but his own species. The age of this bird extends to fourteen or fifteen years. Of the eggs and incubation of this bird in its *natural state* I have not been able to obtain any account. In its domestic state it doubtless partakes of the nature of those birds with which it might happen to be associated. The eggs of the *finch* tribe are generally about five in number, and whitish, with rufous spots. For others of the *finch* tribe, see pages 252, 262, and 280.

They breed without difficulty in confinement in this and many other countries; the male and female both assist in forming the nest.

It is said, too, that the song of the Canary-birds bred in this country is usually composed of the notes of the Titlark and the Nightingale; but, although this may be occasionally true, it is not, I suspect, a general truth. There is, surely, probability that the Canary has a song of its own.

I am, however, indebted to Mr. YARREL for the following particulars of the *domesticated* CANARY-BIRD, of which he has several eggs, produced by the genuine species, without any admixture.

"Whatever the materials are of which the Canary forms its nest, or what the colour of its eggs in its native islands, I do not know; but, in this country (having bred them myself), they make a compact nest of moss and wool closely interwoven, very similar to the nest of the Linnet and the Redpole; the egg is also very like that of the Linnet, but somewhat smaller, the ground colour white, slightly tinged with green, spotted and streaked with dark red at the larger end; in number four or five.

"However *domestication* may change the feather, I have no reason to believe that it produces any alteration in the colour of the egg; and, in this instance, both the nest and eggs agree closely with the other species of the genus to which the Canary belongs.

"*Domestication*, though continued for years, produces no change in the eggs of pheasants, &c. &c."

The Canary has been known to breed in confinement in this country six or eight times a year!

While the MANAKIN murmur'd a tremulous song,
The MOCKING-BIRD followed with music along.

THE MANAKIN'S SONG.

Pipra Musica.—(LINN.)

I would sing with much pleasure, but oh! its so shocking,
The instant I open my bill and begin,
That insolent bird, which some call, I think, MOCKING,
Repeats all my notes in unmannerly din.

Already you hear him! I can't go on singing:
You, I know, will excuse me: indeed I'm unwell.
Whoe'er can endure, for a moment, such ringing
Of changes?—his voice is just like a crack'd bell.

Alas! he'll not suffer me even to utter
A word of complaint! I beseech you to hear:
Be my notes high or low, or a warble, a mutter,
Be they loud, be they soft, be they distant or near.

What then is this MOCKERY? weapon of WITLINGS,
To whom WISDOM and TRUTH are both often unknown?
Who, in order to shine like some little Tomtitlings,
Sport the bright thoughts of others, and call them their own.(64)

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(64) **ORDER, PASSERES,** (*Linn.*) **MANAKIN,** the **TUNEFUL,** the **ROCK.**

The *genus* **PIPRA,** (*Linn.*) or **MANAKIN,** comprehends more than forty species, inhabitants of the warm climates of Asia, Africa, and America; they have the bill shorter than the head, strong, hard, nearly triangular at the base, and slightly incurved

THE MOCKING-BIRD'S SONG.

Turdus Polyglottus.—(LINN.)

I now sing with much pleasure, my notes never shocking;
Know ye not that, before I look round and begin,
I'm that musical bird, which some choose to call MOCKING,
And my notes oft respond in melodious din.

Already you hear me! I must go on singing:
You, I know, will excuse me; I'll try to sing well:
You all will be pleas'd, I doubt not, with my ringing
Of changes,—much better than those on a bell.

Delightful! permit me my feelings to utter;
Not a word of complaint shall you now from me hear:
Be my notes low or high, or but merely a mutter;
Be they soft, be they loud, or far distant, or near.

Then welcome, dear MOCKERY! charmer of WITLINGS,
To whom WIT, if not wisdom, hath long time been known;
Who, to shine like bright stars, not as silly Tomtitlings,
Sport of others the thoughts much improv'd by their own.

at the tip; nostrils naked; feet gressorial; tail short. The following are the chief:—

The *Musica*, or TUNEFUL-MANAKIN, is black, beneath orange; front and rump yellow; crown and nape blue; chin, throat, and legs, black; four inches long; inhabits St. Domingo; is very shy, and easily eludes the vigilance of those who attempt to take it, by perpetually skipping, like the creeper, to the opposite branches of the tree: its note is musical, and forms a complete octave, one note regularly succeeding another.

The *Rupicola*, Rock or Crested-Manakin, *Cock-of-the-Rock*, or *Hoopoe-Hen*, is a showy and elegant bird; the crest is erect, very large for the size of the animal, and edged with purple; bill yellowish; body bright, reddish orange, varied in the wings with white and brown; legs yellow, size of a pigeon; length from ten to twelve inches; eggs two, white; builds in the clefts of remotest rocks; shy, but may be tamed if taken young; feeds on small wild fruit. Female and young birds brown; inhabits the rocky parts of South America.

The *Manacus*, or Black-capped-Manakin, is black above, beneath white; spot on the neck, above, and on the wings, white; bill black, legs yellow; it is a restless bird; gregarious; and inhabits the woods of Guiana.

The *Minuta*, or Little-Manakin, is grey; head black, speckled with white; size of a small wren; inhabits India.

For an account of the Mocking-bird, see page 373; but it may be stated here that its *day-song* consists generally of the imitations of the notes of other birds; its *night-song*, (see forward,) is its own.

THE ORIOLE'S SONG.

Oriolus Nidipendulus.—(LINN.)

" HE who'd live a happy life,
Let him live as we;
We defy both care and strife,—
Are from sorrow free."
THE LARK'S SONG.

You may sing of your dells,
Of your groves and your trees,
Of your vallies and fells,
Of your cool mountain breeze :

You may prattle to solitude
All the day long ;
And let none but the wood
Hear your voice or your song :

You may sing of the sorrow
Of love-dying swain ;
Or of maidens who sigh
For their charmers in vain :

You may sing of Savannahs,
And swamps, and the fall
Of the fam'd Niagara ;—
Sublime may it call.

Give *me* a rich field
Heavy laden with corn,
Just before its consign'd
To the planter's strong barn.

Give me too,—its the zest
Of the Oriole's life,—
A crowd of companions
Without care or strife.

Be monkish who may,
I no monk e'er will be;
I like jolly fellows
Around me to see.

Ah, its all very well
Now and then to retire
To the mountain or moor,
And pure Nature admire;

But, what fancy may prompt us,
What ardour may burn,
To society's smiles,
Soon or late, we return.(65)

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(65) ORDER, PICÆ, *(Linn.)* HANGNEST-ORIOLE.

The *Oriolus nidipendulus*, HANGNEST-ORIOLE, *Spanish-Nightingale*, *Watchy-Picket*, or *American-Hangnest*, has the frontlet and wreath black; crown, neck, back, and tail, reddish brown; breast and belly tawny yellow; length seven inches; sings charmingly; builds a pendulous nest on the extreme branches of a high tree; inhabits the woods of Jamaica, and, most probably, many other of the West India islands.

For an account of *other* Orioles, see note (32).

THE TANAGER'S SONG.

Tanagra Mexicana.—(LINN.)

I envy not, I ask not,
  A gay or gaudy life;
I wish not, I seek not,
  The haunts of noisy strife.

I love not, I hope not,
  To dwell amid the crowd,
Where think not, where care not,
  The haughty and the proud.

I should not, I could not,
  Behold without much pain
The reckless, the heedless
  O'erbearings of the vain.

I should not, I could not,
  Behold the poor oppress'd,
Without some poignant anguish
  Arising in my breast.

Then give me not, I ask not,
A gay or gaudy life;
I wish not, I seek not,
The haunts of noisy strife.* (66)

(66) ORDER, PASSERES, (*Linn.*) TANAGER the BLACK and BLUE, the RED-BREASTED, the GOLDEN.

The *genus* TANAGRA, (*Linn.*) or TANAGER, consists of more than sixty species, nearly all found in the West Indies and America. They have been considered as similar to the sparrows of Europe, to which they approach in almost every particular, except colour and the small grooves hollowed out at the sides of the upper mandible, towards the point. They are also, like the sparrows, gregarious; but lay only two eggs at a brood. They, however, as well as most birds in warm climates, breed very often. The following are deserving notice:—

The *Mexicana*, or BLACK-and-BLUE TANAGER, is black, beneath yellowish; breast and rump blue. Another variety, with tail coverts green, body beneath white; five inches long; sings very finely; inhabits South America.

The *Jacapa*, or RED-BREASTED TANAGER, is black; front, throat, and breast scarlet; female purplish brown, beneath reddish, wings and tail brown; six and a half inches long; builds a pendulous, cylindrical, and somewhat-curved nest; feeds on fruit; eggs white, with reddish spots. Inhabits South America.

The *Violacea*, or GOLDEN TANAGER, is violet; beneath and hind head fine yellow; another variety black instead of violet; female olive brown; young bird blue olive; three and a half inches long; variable in its colours; very destructive to rice plantations. Inhabits Brazil and Cayenne.

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* This song has been set to music by my friend, W. JACOB, Esq. It will, most probably, be published in a separate form.

A STORM.*

Ipse Pater, media nimborum in nocte, coruscâ
Fulmina molitur dextrâ: quo maxima motu
Terra tremit; fugere feræ; et mortalia corda
Per gentes humilis stravit pavor.
VIRGIL, GEORGIC I.

Now the sun with his steeds, that no mortal may tame,
In his chariot descending, and rob'd in bright flame,
O'er the west shed a radiance, when suddenly grew
A blackness in air, that a gloom around threw.
Oppressive, hot stillness, an ominous sign,
With fear that astounds, seem'd in league to combine.
With clouds, dark, portentous, deep stain'd was the sky;
The sea-winds rose suddenly howling on high:
The sea, black and stormy, with white foam boil'd o'er;
Ships, torn from their moorings, were toss'd on the shore:
The wild curling breakers, like wolves, fierce and strong,
Ran yelling and dashing in fury along:
Round the mountainous rocks numerous sea-birds scream'd loud,
As they, terror-struck, flew in a dark wavy cloud:

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* For some of the thoughts in this Poem the author is indebted to HALL's *South America*: see vol. ii. page 317.

From the earth, borne aloft by the maniac gust,
Arose in wild whirlwinds the darkening dust.
Now the isle shook with strange trepidation, and high
The sea heav'd her billowy mountains; the sky
Look'd a concave of horror, what time from the shore
The winds up the dell wound in deep hollow roar:
The lightning, at distance, leap'd over the hill;
No more now was heard the soft roll of the rill;
No more heard of warblers,—of parrots the note;
No more on the breeze was heard music to float:
For Thunder, approaching in haste from the west,
With his voice loud, appalling, shook many a breast.

From the sea came the STORM-BIRDS, with screams up the dell;
And rain, mix'd with hail, now in torrents down fell.
The BIRDS all sought shelter,—the VULTURE his rock
Forsook for a place more secure from the shock:
The Tornado grew furious, and, lashing the trees,
Twisted some off their trunks,—their limbs swam on the breeze.

The din and destruction now thicken'd apace;
It seem'd as though Uproar with Storm had a race;
Or, rather, that Nature (maniacal joy)
Sought, by one crashing stroke, her own works to destroy.
The palms were uptorn, and borne far in the air;
The birds, on their leaves, became stunn'd with despair:
The rock, where the Vulture had sat, at one stroke
Of the lightning's hot shaft, into two at once broke:

One roll'd crashing, o'erwhelming afar down the dell,
The other stood still the disaster to tell;
Around which the thunder oft rattled and rang,
While the light'ning from crag unto crag swiftly sprang.
In the dell roar'd a torrent, where many a tree
Floated down with dead birds and dead beasts, to the sea.
Not a note now was heard from a chorister's lute;
All the birds, still alive, struck by fear, became mute:
They, closely impacted in groups, might be seen
Beneath a scath'd palm, or uptorn evergreen.

Again the isle shook, and the sea on the shore
Still roll'd in tumultuous and deafening roar;
O'er the dark vault of heav'n the fierce light'ning still flew,
And the clouds rais'd their heads in terrific review.

A moment of silence,—of calm,—came at length,
And proclaim'd that the giants had wasted their strength:
While the sun shot a beam of bright light from a cloud,
A token he meant, ere he slept, to unshroud;
The thunder retir'd with a muttering growl,
And the wind flew away in an ominous howl.
The rain ceas'd; the clouds, too, soon hurried away;
And the BIRDS now look'd out from the house of dismay.
At length, in his splendour, the sun in the west
Rode forth, and lit hope up again in the breast.

The VULTURE first rose: on the havoc profound
He glanc'd; it might even a monarch astound:
Nought abash'd, he flew over the desolate dell,
Then, stooping, he swept o'er the water's deep swell;
A favourite morsel roll'd down in the tide,—
Its possession an instant enough to decide.
The GRALLATORS dipp'd, too, their long beaks in the flood;
At times they were stain'd or with gore or with blood.
The GOATSUCKERS, SCANSORS, the PARROTS, a few,
Their clamorous notes chose again to renew;
But the powerful impression the hurricane made
The BIRDS of fine feeling detain'd in the shade:
Yet the musical WOOD-THRUSH, torn laurels among,
As ev'ning approach'd, warbled forth a sweet song:
The sad and the sombre become him the best:
Thus he sang, as he perch'd on his leafy beech nest:—

THE WOOD-THRUSH'S EVENING SONG.

Turdus Melodus.—(WILSON.)

STILL MEMORY culls, O, HAPPINESS!
For THEE her sweetest flowers;—
The violet, the pink, the rose,
And woodbine, from her bowers.

When earth becomes a dreary void,
For THEE her magic wand
She waves, and lo! in colours bright,
A wondrous fairy land!

When friends forsake us—when the fates
The dearest friends divide,
For THEE still MEMORY hovers near,
Thy long affianc'd bride.

The tender look—the dying word
She holds for ever dear;
And, while affection prompts the sigh,
And sorrow sheds the tear,

She beckons HOPE, in misty robe,
And THEE to deck the urn;
And dwells with sad delight, on hours
That never can return.

Ye VICTIMS of the STORM! for YOU
This *requiem* I sing:
And for your shroud pimenta leaves
Abundant I shall bring;

Here, wrapt in fragrance, you shall lie;
Oft from the giddy throng
I'll steal apart and warble here
For you, my saddest song.

'Tis said that Man, a monarch here,
Though he like us, too, dies,
In other worlds for ever lives
Amidst unclouded skies.

Then why not WE—why should the gates
Of death affections sever—
Why might not WE, as well as MAN,
Live too, and love for ever?

Ecstatic thought! midst laurel shades
For ever thus to sing;—
Our long lost friends to find again
In everliving spring!

Still MEMORY culls, O, HAPPINESS!
For THEE her choicest flowers:—
The violet, jasmine, pink, the rose,
And woodbines, from her bowers. (67)

(67) ORDER, PASSERES; THRUSH, the WOOD, the RED-BREASTED.

The *Turdus Melodus*, WOOD-THRUSH, *Wood-Robin*, or *Ground-Robin*, inhabits the whole of North America, from Hudson's Bay to Florida. Arrives in Pennsylvania about the 20th of April, and returns to the south in October. Length eight inches; the whole upper parts are a fulvous brown, brightening into reddish on the head, and inclining to olive on the rump and tail; throat and breast white, tinged with light buff colour, and beautifully marked with dark spots running all over the belly, which is white. Frequents solitary woods; sings finely in the morning and evening, and also in moist and gloomy weather: the sadder the day the sweeter its song. Eggs four or five, light blue, without spots; nest, in a laurel or elder bush, composed of beech leaves exteriorly, lined with mud, over which is laid fine black fibrous roots of plants; the nest is found in moist situations and the neighbourhood of brooks. This bird is often heard, but rarely seen. For its *Morning Song*, see page 351.

The *Turdus Migratorius*, RED-BREASTED-THRUSH, or ROBIN, of WILSON, is nine and a half inches long; sings very pleasantly; frequently seen in America in cages, in one of which it has been kept for seventeen years; inhabits the whole of North America, from Hudson's Bay to Nootka Sound and Georgia; rarely breeds on the east side of the mountains south of Virginia. See page 350.

EVE at length came, in mantle of purple array'd,
While the moon o'er the mountains her radiance display'd.
The birds sought repose—who had journeys to take,
Deferr'd their return till the morning should wake;
Meantime, the sweet MOCKING-BIRD, true to his lay,
Thus welcom'd the NIGHT, thus took leave of the DAY:

THE MOCKING-BIRD'S NIGHT SONG.

Turdus Polyglottus.—(Linn.)

The garish day is gone to rest,
Then welcome gentle Night!
I love thy solemn silent hours
When moon and stars are bright.

I love, O night! to hear repose
In breathing slumbers sweet;
I love to hear thy crystal rills
Flow murmuring at thy feet.

Sweet night! of love the tender nurse,
I offer unto thee
The holiest and the purest vows
That e'er can offered be.

Hast thou, sweet night! a maiden seen
Array'd like seraph bright?
She wanders oft in yonder grove;
Oh tell me, gentle night!

Awake, O, breeze! and bear my song
To that fair seraph bright;
Tell her that love awaits her steps
In the bower of moonlight.

Then welcome be thy silent hours,
Thy moon and thy starlight;—
Thy deep repose, thy bowers of bliss—
Thrice welcome gentle night!

For an account of the *Mocking-bird*, see note (41), page 373; but it may be stated here, in regard to its *song*, that *during the day* its chief notes consist of the imitations of the songs of its neighbours; at *night* its song is more peculiarly its own.

END OF THE SECOND PART.

THE VALLEY OF NIGHTINGALES.

A SCENE

Near the Hotwells, Bristol.

"Then, said I, master, pleasant is this place,
And sweet are those melodious notes I hear;
And happy they, among man's toiling race,
Who, of their cares forgetful, wander near."
BOWLES.

[To those who might not happen to know St. VINCENT'S ROCKS, CLIFTON, and the very beautiful scenery near the HOTWELLS, BRISTOL, it might be desirable to state that the river Avon winds here through a sinuous defile, on one side of which the ROCKS rise perpendicularly in a bold yet irregular manner to the height of many hundred feet; the opposite side is not so bold, but it is, nevertheless, extremely beautiful, being clothed, in many places, with wood, and has, besides, a VALLEY through which you may ascend to Leigh Down. This valley has been named *the Valley of Nightingales,* no doubt, in consequence of those birds making it their resort.

"Where foliag'd full in vernal pride,
Retiring winds thy favourite vale;
And faint the moan of Avon's tide
Remurmurs to the nightingale."
C. A. ELTON, *Poems,* Disappointment.

In a note Mr. ELTON informs us that this stanza alludes to the "Valley of Nightingales opposite St. Vincent's Rocks at Clifton." The lovers of the picturesque will here find ample gratification. If, in the following poem, the truth in Natural History be a little exceeded in reference to a troop of nightingales, it is hoped that the poetical licence will be pardoned. The vicinity of the Hotwells has been lately much improved by a carriage drive beneath and around these rocks.]

THE VALLEY OF NIGHTINGALES.

Seëst thou yon tall Rocks, where, 'midst sunny light beaming,
They lift up their heads and look proudly around;—
While numerous *Choughs*, with their cries shrill and screaming,
Wheel from crag unto crag, and now oe'r the profound?

Seëst thou yonder Valley where gushes the fountain;
Where the *Nightingales* nestling harmoniously sing;
Where the *Mavis* and *Merle*, and the merry *Lark* mounting,
In notes of wild music, now welcome the spring?

Seëst thou yonder shade where the *woodbine* ascending,
Encircles the *hawthorn* with amorous twine,
With the *bryony* scandent in gracefulness blending;
What sweet mingled odours—scarce less than divine!

Hearest thou the blue *Ring-Dove* in yonder tree cooing;
The *Red-breast*—the *Hedge-Sparrow,* warble their song;
The *Cuckoo,* with sameness of note ever wooing;
Yet ever to pleasure such notes will belong?

And this is THE VALLEY OF NIGHTINGALES;—listen
To those full swelling sounds—with those pauses between;
Where the bright waving shrubs 'midst the pale hazels glisten,
There oft may a troop of the songsters be seen.

Seëst thou yon proud SHIP on the stream adown sailing,
O'er ocean her course to strange climes she now bends;
Oh! who may describe the deep sobs or heart wailing,
Her departure hath wrought amongst lovers and friends?

The rocks now re-echo the songs of the sailor,
As he chearfully bounds on his watery way;
But the MAIDEN!—ah what shall that echo avail her,
When absence and sorrow have worn out the day?

Behold her all breathless, still gazing, pursuing,
And waving at times, with her white hand, adieu;
On the rock now she sits, with fix'd eye the ship viewing,
No picture of fancy—but often too true!

Dost thou see yon flush'd HECTIC, of health poor remainder,
With a dark hollow eye and a thin sunken cheek;
While AFFECTION hangs o'er him with thoughts that have pain'd her,
And that comfort and hope still forbid her to speak?*

Yes, FRIENDSHIPS! AFFECTIONS! ye ties the most tender!
Fate, merciless Fate, your connexion will sever;—
To that tyrant remorseless, all—all must surrender!
I once had a SON—*here* we parted for ever!†

Now the sun o'er the earth rides in glory unclouded;
The ROCKS and the VALLEYS delightedly sing;
The BIRDS in wild concert, in yonder wood shrouded,
Awake a loud chorus to welcome the spring.

And this is the VALLEY OF NIGHTINGALES;—listen
To those full-swelling sounds—with those pauses between,
Where the bright waving shrubs midst the pale hazels glisten,
There oft may a troop of the songsters be seen.

May, 1826.

---

* The Hotwells are, unfortunately, too often the last resort of the consumptive.

† A promising youth who died some years since at Berbice.

THE HILL OF FREEDOM.

> "Approach! thou delight of the children of men,
> Fair FREEDOM! approach!"
>
> *See Part I. page* 170.

The questions as to the *justice* of buying or selling any of our fellow men, of whatever colour or condition, or of retaining them, as SLAVES, have been, it is presumed, long ago decided. The EMANCIPATION of such unfortunate beings must, therefore, sooner or later take place. The only questions which remain appear to be those relative to the *manner* and the *time*.

The *ignorance* and *prejudices* of the SLAVES on the one hand, and the immediate *interests* and *prejudices* of the PLANTERS on the other, are, it must be admitted, difficulties of no ordinary kind. While some of our benevolent enthusiasts have advocated early, or even immediate, emancipation, the planters have, in too many instances, done all they could to prevent the *diffusion of knowledge* amongst the slaves, and, by such and other obstructions, have, doubtless, retarded the desired consummation. Both proceed injudiciously and unwisely. To expect the SLAVES to be *at once* capable of *rational* freedom is not less absurd than to expect *ignorance* to produce *rational* obedience. The only safe course is by enlightening their understanding, shewing them their true interests, and teaching them the arts, conveniencies, and decencies of civilized society; and also by shewing them *that* humanity to which *they*, as well as the *whites*, are equally entitled. Vindictiveness, on either side, will be, most certainly, productive of a retaliation greatly to be deplored.

The *anomaly* which is found in some of the *United States of America*, where the NEGRO is still *bought, sold,* and *treated* as a SLAVE by the white PROPRIETOR, who, at the same time, is loud in his demands of LIBERTY for himself, furnishes a lesson that will, it is to be hoped, have, in time, a proper influence on the manners and councils of that otherwise highly favoured and happy country.

The existence of SLAVERY, however, in the United States of America, it is evident, is *tolerated,* not *encouraged,* by the *intelligent* portion of their social community. From some efforts which have been lately made by those states where Slavery is *not tolerated,* we learn that the *state of Mississipi,* where, of course, SLAVERY *is tolerated,* has transmitted a report and resolution in which the proposal of the *state of Ohio* relative to the emancipation of Slaves is disapproved; and in which, also, complaint is made of the interference of non-slaveholding states. The report, in effect, declares that the right of property in Slaves is as sacred and inviolable as that of any other personal property; that, however great the national evil of Slavery may be, and however much it may be regretted, circumstances have rendered it inevitable, and placed it without the pale of legislative authority; that the state cannot concur in any arrangement for emancipating Slaves; that any interference by non-slaveholding states on subjects of this nature may produce deplorable consequences, excite prejudices, and weaken the union of the states; and, instead of ameliorating the condition, can only aggravate the misfortunes of the Slaves; that, by a gradual emancipation, the hopes of those who remained in slavery would be excited to insurrection, and the lives of the citizens endangered; the state, for these reasons it seems, determined to participate in no such measure.

In conclusion, this right, hearty, and determined Slave-holding state, claims the right, in concert with the southern states, whose situation is similar, of moving this question *when an enlarged system of benevolence shall, in consistency with their rights and interests, render it practicable.* Most excellent morality certainly! Which enlarged system of benevolence it is not difficult to prophesy will never, under the direction of these Slave-holders, unless continually stimulated and prompted by their neighbours, arrive. And, notwithstanding the high tone of such moral professors, it is devoutly to be hoped that their neighbours will continue to remind them of their DUTIES, in temper and conciliation of course. The haughtiness of these worthies, among their other qualities, is not a little remarkable: *you must not meddle in their concerns,* although their *bad* example may contaminate all their neighbours! It is to be hoped, however, that, notwithstanding the peculiar sensitiveness of the *Legislators of Mississipi,* their INTELLIGENT NEIGHBOURS will not fail to keep a watchful eye over them, and that *public opinion* will ultimately operate beneficially upon the obliquity of their morals and their understandings.

We now come to legislators of a higher grade; and here it is impossible to observe, without regret, that a RESOLUTION concerning SLAVERY in the district of Columbia was offered, among others, by Mr. MINER, of Pennsylvania, to the CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES, a short time since, and negatived by an apparently large majority; this resolution was as follows:

Resolved,

That the district of Columbia being placed under the exclusive regulation of the United States, ought to exhibit *to the nation, and to the world, the purest specimen of government, vindicating the superior excellence of free institutions; that, as we are here establishing a city, (Washington,) intended as the perpetual Capital of a great Republic, it is due to Ourselves, and to Posterity, that the foundations thereof be laid in wisdom, and that no fundamental evils in the structure of its policy be permitted to take root, which might become inveterate by time, but which prudent and timely policy may eradicate.*

We turn from the unfruitful efforts of the INTELLIGENT and BENEVOLENT in America to the speech of *Don Manuel Lorenzo de Vidaurre, Minister from Peru at the opening of the American Congress at Panama, on the 22d of June,* 1826. Here shall we find sentiments in accordance with the times and with truth; after expatiating on various interesting topics, he thus alludes to the SLAVE.

"Let," said he, "the sad and abject countenance of the poor AFRICAN, bending under the chains of rapacity and oppression, no longer be seen in these climes; let him be endowed with equal privileges with the *white* man, whose colour he has been taught to regard as a badge of superiority; let him, in learning that he is not distinct from other men, learn to become a rational being."

To such efforts and such sentiments as these, who does not wish success?

THE HILL OF FREEDOM.

SHALL BIRDS and their FREEDOM engross all the SONG?
Forbid it, O YE! that to MUSIC belong.
Awake HARP! once more with thy melody wake!
Let the FREEDOM of MAN of the SONG now partake;
Let the chords from thy strings in loud energy roll;
And let TRUTH and let JUSTICE the cadence control.
Who hath not heard of FREEDOM?—delightful the sound!
Wherever she dwells may be deemed holy ground.
In cities she, sometimes, is pleas'd to reside;
And, sometimes, the hermit's lone cottage beside;
But the *country*, for ever, abode of her choice:
In woods, meadows, on mountains, her footsteps rejoice.
She hath long had, in BRITAIN, a high chosen seat;
And COLUMBIA, for her, is a sacred retreat.
O'er the *South*—o'er *Peru*—to the *Andes*—the *Shore*,
Where TEZCALIPOCA[*] the natives adore,

---

[*] One of the imaginary Gods of the *Mexican Indians*, of whom thus sings SOUTHEY in his MADOC.

> "Among the Gods of yon unhappy race,
> *Tezcalipoca* as the chief they rank,
> Or with their chief co-equal; maker he
> And master of created things esteem'd.
> He sits upon a throne of trophied skulls
> Hideous and huge."
>
> *Part II. Sect. II.*

She now stretches her arm with glad tidings for all
Who on her may choose for assistance to call.
Her permanent palace an undulate HILL,
At whose feet gushes forth, in sweet warble, the rill;
On whose top looking round you all nations behold—
Their valleys of verdure—their rivers of gold.
That ocean of isles looking far to the west,
Hath nature with plenty abundantly bless'd.
There the swart SONS of AFRICA labour and sigh;
And oft, too, for FREEDOM, are willing to die.
On that HILL TOP, in vision, enraptur'd I saw,
Fair FREEDOM unfetter'd by CUSTOM or LAW;
Her form the most graceful—step airy and light;
And her robes gave to splendour intensity bright;
Her countenance shone; and her look was benign;—
Her contour and movement bespake her divine.
Beside her walk'd KNOWLEDGE, like vestal sedate,
Nor airs of importance surround her, nor state;
Her language was simple, yet touching the grand,
And such as the simplest could well understand;—
No sentence involv'd, nor terms learned, abtruse,—
Nor pride to exhibit what is of *no use*.
She, the punning of pedants—the play upon names—
With the lumber of learning, consigns to the flames.
To TEACH, her sole object, the USEFUL and TRUE;—
By the aid of ENQUIRY examines the NEW:
To PROGRESSION pays homage, and, as the TIME flies,
Collects from his passage the words of the wise.
CONTENT, too, awaited in FREEDOM's fair train;
And HAPPINESS smil'd, in robes homely and plain.

Innumerous the sylphids who wander among
The groves and the glades, while the Birds, in full
song,
Sent o'er hill and o'er valley the notes of delight,
As the sun of the morning in splendour rose bright.
The Children of Africa, groaning and sore
With the chains of oppression, will bear them no
more.
On her hill top fair Freedom they ken from afar,
And indignantly threaten their Masters with war:
They to her look for succour—to her they appeal—
That she the deep wounds of oppression will heal.
She, in accents benignant, bright hope by her side,
To the tale of their sorrows thus kindly replied:
"Ye Children of Afric! your manifold wrongs
"Long by me have been heard in your prayers and
songs;
"Nor have heard I in vain: for gone forth is a sound
"That will your oppression abash and confound:
"That sound is of Knowledge the mild and still
voice,
"At whose bidding all nations shall sing and rejoice.
"My handmaid is she—will my *fiat* attend,
"And ever will prove your inflexible friend.
"O seek her, pursue her by day and by night;
"All her paths are of peace and are strew'd with delight.
"Without her what aid can I, Freedom, impart?
"It is Knowledge with me that must govern the
heart.

"Be patient then Children of Afric! your sun
"Hath his glorious career o'er the mountains begun;—
"You, my Children of Britain will never forsake;—
"For You, they will efforts incessantly make!
"Ye days of bright promise, O hasten! O speed!
"When Knowledge shall make all, at length, free indeed."
She ceas'd for a moment; then turn'd unto those
Whom the Africans deem, at once, masters and foes.
"You, who hold in your hands all the issues of life—
"Of the Negro—his *children—son—daughter*, and *wife;*
"Who transfer, when you please, be they blind, be they lame,
"Their *persons* for *gold* unto whom you may name;
"You, whose ships float along on the tide of success;
"You, whom power enables to curse or to bless;—
"Oh fail not in duty's imperious commands;
"Be a blessing to those whom you have in your hands;
"Smooth the pillow of age—and to youth be e'er kind—
"And thus *lead*, not administer *force* to, the mind.
"Consult too the *feelings,—affections,*—nay, pride;
"Nor mother from daughter, son, father, divide;
"Nor wife from the husband, nor friend from the friend;
"And thus o'er your Slaves benign influence extend.

"Teach them lessons of LOVE by the pure GOSPEL
taught,
"Apart from the webs superstition hath wrought.
"Diffuse, too, the WISDOM which KNOWLEDGE imparts;
"Teach them *foresight*, and *prudence*, the *useful* in
arts.
"Be, in your own persons, the picture I draw,
"And soon shall you need not the terrors of LAW.
"This do, and your SLAVES will, aye, maugre your
creed,
"Soon become all well fitted for FREEDOM indeed.
"My realm they may enter with dance and with song,
"While HAPPINESS leads them, in triumph, along!"

She said,—a dark cloud now arose on the hill;
No more she was seen; aloud warbled the rill.

VALEDICTORY LINES.

> "O reminiscences of youth! ye charm
> The years of manhood, soothe the aches of age;
> Your pencil paints the *pleasures* of the past
> In liveliest hues, while many a rueful *pain*
> Ye darken o'er with shade."
>
> *From an unpublished Poem.*

YE MINSTRELS of MELODY! CHILDREN of SONG!
A moment yet more I the strain must prolong.
Yes, lovely ENCHANTERS of wood and of dell!
One moment yet grant me to bid you FAREWELL.—
One moment to thank you for much of delight;—
For much ting'd with rapture, by hope colour'd bright;—
What time I have listened, in glens and in groves,
In moorlands, in meadows, to songs of your loves;—
How often the *Lapwings* have heard on *North-moor!*
How often the *Rooks*, at my NATAL COT's door!
And both those and the *Ring-Doves*, at *Petherton-Park*,
While o'er the rich meadow sang sweetly the *Lark!*
And the *Thrush's*, the *Black-bird's*, and *Red-breast's*
soft note,
Seem'd, buoyant like bubbles, on ether to float;—
The *Cuckoo's* loud monotone spake of delight;—
Of May time the *Nightingale* sang at midnight;—

Or, while the TENTH WAVE* rising roll'd on the shore,
And, lifting his head, gave a loud hollow roar,
Have heard the wild *sea-bird's* loud screaming, not
song,
As I wander'd with pleasure the sea marge along.
In *youth*, ere Experience, with look sedate, chill,
Fix'd on Feeling the rein, there I wander'd at will,
While the young laughing Love, with his sinuous art,
Threw his magical sympathies over my heart.
In *manhood* less rapture, more pleasure, my share :
For reason had taught me your feelings to spare ;

---

* The *tenth wave* has excited the attention of the poets. MATURIN somewhere speaks of the "tenth wave of human misery." In turning over lately some of our older poets, I met with an allusion to the *ninth* wave ; in whose works I do not now recollect. OVID has the following passages relative to this subject :

> Qui venit hic fluctus, fluctus supereminet omnes ;
> Posterior *nono* est, *undecimoque* prior,
> *Tristia Elegia*, 2.
>
> Vastius insurgens *decimæ* ruit impetus *undæ*.
> *Metamorph.* Lib. xi.

This notion concerning the *tenth* wave has also been long entertained by many persons conversant with the sea-shore : I often heard it when I was a boy, and have repeatedly watched the waves of the sea *when breaking on the shore*, (for it is to this particular motion that the *tenth* wave, as far as I know, applies,) and can state that, when the tide is *ebbing*, no such phenomenon as the *tenth* wave occurs ; but that, when the tide is *flowing*, some such is often observable ; it is not, however, invariably the *tenth* wave : after several smaller undulations, a larger one follows, and the water rises. This is more distinctly

Of your HOMES and your LITTLE ONES often I thought;
For your pleasures, your wrongs, too, I manfully fought;
And, now I am come to the threshold of *age*,
For YOU I a war still am willing to wage.
But no more! of your SONGS—of the meadow, or dell—
No more—ye wild WARBLERS! I bid you FAREWELL!
And FAREWELL, too, to SONG!—for your minstrel grows old,
And the world, frowning o'er him, looks callous and cold.
No more he, perchance, shall awaken the lyre,
But in this, his *last* song, his last thoughts may transpire.
When he sleeps in yon woodland, will you, in the spring,
O'er his sod, in remembrance, a requiem sing;—
Will you visit the woods where he once touch'd his shell?—
Ye MINSTRELS of MELODY! HAIL! and FAREWELL!

seen on a sandy, or smooth muddy shore of more or less flatness.

I take occasion to observe here that the SEA is a subject of intense interest, solemnity, sublimity, at all times; but, perhaps, most so on a still evening about high water, when it makes no noise except at intervals, as its wavy yet smooth undulations break with a peculiar and indescribable hollow sound as they roll over on the shore, reminding us of

> "Eternity, eternity, and power."
>
> PROCTER.

A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

USED IN THIS WORK.

⁂ A few other words of rather uncommon occurrence will also be found in the preceding pages, but, as they have a place in TODD'S JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY, *it has been thought unnecessary to explain them in this glossary. The* ANGLICIZED *words are accented.*

Al′cad. A bird of the *auk* tribe.
Alcadæ. Birds of the *auk* tribe.
Alembical. Having the shape of an alembic.
Anat′id. A bird of the *Duck* tribe.
Anatidæ. Birds of the *Duck* tribe.
Ar′deid. A bird of the *Heron* tribe.
Ardeidæ. Birds of the *Heron* tribe.
AVES. Birds.
Bombycine. Silky, formed of silk.
Bu′cerid. A bird of the *Hornbill* tribe.
Buceridæ. Birds of the *Hornbill* tribe.
Capistrum. The face.
Caprimul′gid. A bird of the *Goat-sucker* tribe.
Caprimulgidæ. Birds of the *Goat-sucker* tribe.
Carinate. Formed like a keel.
Carunculate. Having caruncles.
Cere. The membrane covering the base of the bill; the wax.
Cereless. Without a cere.
Cer′thiad. A bird of the *Creeper* tribe.
Certhiadæ. Birds of the *Creeper* tribe.
Charad′riad. A bird of the *Plover* tribe.
Charadriadæ. Birds of the *Plover* tribe.
Cin′nyrid. A bird of the *Cinnyris* or *Sun-bird* tribe.
Cinnyridæ. Birds of the *Cinnyris* or *Sun-bird* tribe.
Colum′bid. A bird of the *Pigeon* tribe.
Columbidæ. Birds of the *Pigeon* tribe.
Colym′bid. A bird of the *Diver* tribe.
Colymbidæ. Birds of the *Diver* tribe.
Con′irost. A bird having a *conic* bill.
Conirostres. Birds having conic bills.
Cor′vid. A bird of the *Crow* tribe.
Corvidæ. Birds of the *Crow* tribe.
Cra′cid. A bird of the *Curassow* and *Penelope* tribe.
Cracidæ. Birds of the *Curassow* and *Penelope* tribe.
Cu′culid. A bird of the *Cuckoo* tribe.
Cuculidæ. Birds of the *Cuckoo* tribe.
Den′tirost. A bird having a *toothed* bill.

Dentirostres. Birds having *toothed* bills.

Expansile. Capable of being expanded.

Fal'conid. A bird of the *Eagle* or *Falcon* tribe.

Falconidæ. Birds of the *Eagle* or *Falcon* tribe.

Farinacea. Those vegetables, particularly corn, which are mealy.

Ferruginous. Having the colour of rusty iron.

Filiform. Having the shape of threads.

Fis'sirost. A bird with a *cleft* or *notched* bill.

Fissirostres. Birds with *cleft* or *notched* bills.

Frin'gillid. A bird of the *Finch* tribe.

Fringillidæ. Birds of the *Finch* tribe.

Frutescent. Shrubby.

Fulvous. Tawny, mixed with red and yellow.

Gape. The whole extent or cavity of the mouth.

Genera. The plural of genus.

Gralla'tor. A *wading* bird.

GRALLATORES. *Wading* birds.

Gressorial. (*Gressorius.*) Formed (*literally*) for stepping; but used by *Linnæus*, and some other naturalists, for hopping or leaping.

Gru'id. A bird of the *Crane* tribe.

Gruidæ. Birds of the *Crane* tribe.

Gular. Belonging or attached to the throat.

Halcyon'id. A bird of the *Kingfisher* or *Halcyon* tribe.

Halcyonidæ. Birds of the *Kingfisher* or *Halcyon* tribe.

Hirun'dinid. A bird of the *Swallow* tribe.

Hirundinidæ. Birds of the *Swallow* tribe.

Ingluvies. The crop.

Inses'sor. A *perching* bird.

INSESSORES. *Perching* birds.

Intratropical. Being within the tropics.

Irids. The plural of Iris. The coloured circles in the globes of the eyes surrounding the pupil.

La'niad. A bird of the *Shrike* tribe.

Laniadæ. Birds of the *Shrike* tribe.

Lar'id. A bird of the *Gull* tribe.

Laridæ. Birds of the *Gull* tribe.

Leguminous. Bearing pods.

Lidden. A song; a note.

Lobate. Divided into lobes.

Lore. A naked skin between the eye and bill.

Lox'iad. A bird of the *Grosbeak* and *Crossbill* tribe.

Loxiadæ. Birds of the *Grosbeak* and *Crossbill* tribe.

Lunula. } A small crescent like
Lunule. } the increasing moon.

Magnates. The great people; the nobility.

Mammalia, s. pl. Those animals which suckle their young, consisting chiefly of *Quadrupeds* and *Man.*

Meliphag'id. A bird of the *Honey-eater* tribe.

Meliphagidæ. Birds of the *Honey-eater* tribe.

Mer'opid. A bird of the *Bee-eater* tribe.

Meropidæ. Birds of the *Bee-eater* tribe.

Mer'ulid. A bird of the *Thrush tribe.*

Merulidæ. Birds of the *Thrush* tribe.

Mongamous. Confined to one sexual association.

Muscicap'id. A bird of the *Fly-catcher* tribe.

Muscicapidæ. Birds of the *Fly-catcher* tribe.

Nata′tor. A *swimming* bird.

NATATORES. *Swimming* birds.

Natatorial. Having the quality of a natator; swimming.

Naive. Natural, simple.

Nectarin′iad. A bird of the *Honey-eating* tribe.

Nectariniadæ. Birds of the *Honey-eating* tribe.

Ochraceous. Of the colour of ochre, dull yellow.

Olivaceous. Of an olive colour, somewhat olive.

Orbit. The ring or circle surrounding the eye.

Palmate. } Having webs.
Palmated. }

Pelecan′id. A bird of the *Pelican* tribe.

Pelecanidæ. Birds of the *Pelican* tribe.

Penduline. Pendulous, not supported below.

Phasian′id. A bird of the *Pheasant* tribe.

Phasianidæ. Birds of the *Pheasant* tribe.

Pi′cid. A bird of the *Woodpecker* tribe.

Picidæ. Birds of the *Woodpecker* tribe.

Pinnate. Furnished with little webs.

Pip′rid. A bird of the *Manakin* tribe.

Pipridæ. Birds of the *Manakin* tribe.

Polygamous. Not confined to one sexual association.

Prairie. An extensive plain in the back settlements of America, covered chiefly with grass.

Primaries. The chief *quill* feathers of the wing.

Promer′opid. A bird of the *Hoopoe* tribe.

Promeropidæ. Birds of the *Hoopoe* tribe.

Psit′tacid. A bird of the *Parrot* tribe.

Psittacidæ. Birds of the *Parrot* tribe.

Ral′lid. A bird of the *Rail* tribe.

Rallidæ. Birds of the *Rail* tribe.

Ramphas′tid. A bird of the *Toucan* tribe.

Ramphastidæ. Birds of the *Toucan* tribe.

Rap′tor. A bird of the *raptorial* tribe.

RAPTORES. Birds of prey, or *raptorial* birds.

Raptorial. Having the quality of snatching—rapacious.

Ra′sor. One of the gallinaceous or *scratching* birds.

RASORES. Birds whose characteristic is *scratching*: gallinaceous birds.

Recurvate. Curved backwards.

Reniform. Kidney shaped.

Retractile. Capable of being drawn backward or inwards.

Revolute. Rolled or turned back.

Rufous. Reddish yellow, somewhat red.

Scandent. Climbing.

Scansile. Formed for climbing.

Scan′sor. A *climbing* bird.

Scansores. *Climbing* birds.

Scansorial. Formed for climbing.

Scapular. Belonging to the shoulder blade.

Scapulars. Feathers covering the back part of the shoulder.

Scolopa′cid. A bird of the *Snipe* tribe.

Scolopacidæ. Birds of the *Snipe* tribe.

Scratcher. A bird that *scratches* the ground to obtain its food.

Secondaries. The *quill* feathers of the second size in the wing.

Semipalmate. } Half or partially webbed.
Semipalmated. }

Snatcher. A bird of prey: a raptorial bird.

Squamiform. Shaped like scales.

Sternum. The breast bone.

Stri′gid. A bird of the *Owl* tribe.

Strigidæ. Birds of the *Owl* tribe.

STRUTHIONES. Ostriches: birds of the *Ostrich* tribe.

Struthion′id. A bird of the *Ostrich* tribe.

Struthionidæ. Birds of the *Ostrich* tribe.

Struthious. Having the qualities of the *Ostrich* tribe.

Stur′nid. A bird of the *Starling* tribe.

Sturnidæ. Birds of the *Starling* tribe.

Subarched. Somewhat arched.

Subconic. Somewhat conic.

Subcrested. Somewhat crested.

Subcylindric. Somewhat cylindrical.

Subincurved. Somewhat incurved.

Subulate. Awl-shaped.

Syl′viad. A bird of the *Warbler* tribe.

Sylviadæ. Birds of the *Warbler* tribe.

Tenu′irost. A bird having a *slender* bill.

Tenuirostres. Birds having *slender* bills.

Tertials. The smallest *quill* feathers of the wing.

Tetraon′id. A bird of the *Partridge* and *Grouse* tribe.

Tetraonidæ. Birds of the *Partridge* and *Grouse* tribe.

Textor. A weaver.

Thoracic duct. That tube or vessel which conveys the nutriment from the absorbents to the blood.

To′did. A bird of the *Tody* tribe.

Todidæ. Birds of the *Tody* tribe.

Tro′chilid. A *humming-bird*.

Trochilidæ. *Humming-birds*.

Truncate. Appearing lopped or shortened.

Vertebræ. The bones of the back and neck.

Vinaceous. Having the colour of grape leaves, pale dull green.

Viscera. The plural of *Viscus*.

Viscus. A bowel or entrail: it is, however, used by anatomists in a more extensive signification than this: the *heart* is called a viscus; and we frequently hear of the *thoracic*, as well as *abdominal viscera*.

Vul′turid. A bird of the *Vulture* tribe.

Vulturidæ. Birds of the *Vulture* tribe.

Wax. The membrane covering the base of the bill; the cere.

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⁂ The *Scientific* names are distinguished thus: the ORDINAL and GENERIC by CAPITALS; the *specific* by *Italics*; the *English* names by Roman letters.

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THE FOLLOWING PETITION,

CONTAINING

A PROSPECTUS

FOR THE PUBLICATION OF

AN ENGLISH DICTIONARY,

Was designed to have been presented to the House of Commons during the Session of 1827; but on its being placed in the hands of one of the leading members of the House, it was found, as it was in effect, a Petition for a pecuniary grant, that it could not be presented without the sanction of the Crown. It is, therefore, now made public, in the hope it may excite that attention which it is believed the plan deserves.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of James Jennings, of Dalby Terrace, City Road, Gentleman,

Sheweth,

That your Petitioner has been for many years engaged in the composition of several Literary Works, among others, of the *Family Cyclopædia;—Observations on the Dialects of the West of England, particularly Somersetshire, with a Glossary of Words now in use there, and Poems and other Pieces exemplifying the Dialect;*—and of *Ornithologia, or the Birds, a Poem, with an Introduction to their Natural History, and copious Notes.* That he has also devoted much of his time to the study of *Lexicography,* as his work on the Somerset Dialect will shew, and is desirous of preparing a Dictionary of the English Language that shall be at once the most copious in words, the most useful and the most convenient of any extant; and one which, he trusts, would do credit to the Country, to the Language, and to himself.

That the deficiency of most, if not all, of our present Dictionaries has been long acknowledged; that the voluminous work of Dr. JOHNSON, improved as it has been very materially by Mr. TODD, is yet extremely deficient in many words, particularly in those relative to, or used in the processes connected with the arts, manufactures, and science. That such words as are now commonly used in popular treatises on Medicine, Chemistry, Botany, &c. ought to be found in an English Dictionary; and that many other words in constant use, but which have not yet been fixed in a Dictionary of the English Language, ought also to have a place there.

That it will, no doubt, excite surprise to be told that neither the word BRAD, as a *generic* term for a nail without a head (of which there are various sizes from half an inch to three inches in length,) nor the compound word *Brad-awl* will be found in TODD'S JOHNSON. It is true the word Brad is in that work, but is there defined "a sort of nail to floor rooms with;" thus only giving a *specific* definition instead of a *generic* one, which ought to be given, and thus misleading the reader as to the meaning of the word.

That in the Dictionary which your Petitioner contemplates, he will not servilely follow, as has been too commonly the practice, either Dr. JOHNSON or any other writer, in the *Definition*, *Orthography*, *Etymology*, or *Pronunciation* of words. He will correct such *Definitions* as are manifestly erroneous; and the *Orthography* and *Pronunciation* will be regulated by the best usage: in a word, his Dictionary shall be, if possible, what it ought to be, a complete copy of our language as spoken and written at the present time.

That such a Dictionary will be, therefore, not only more correct in its definitions, but, it will be also the Petitioner's peculiar care to make it, the most copious in words, of any Dictionary extant; that he will avail himself of all the knowledge which is abroad relative to *Etymology* in addition to his own; and that he will, besides, make it a PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY. That it is by the *Copious Addition of Words*, and upon the combination of PRONUNCIATION with ETYMOLOGY and DEFINITION in ONE VOLUME, he chiefly relies for the ORIGINALITY and UTILITY of his work. But this is not all. Your Petitioner will add, in a *separate Alphabetical arrangement*, all our PROVINCIAL WORDS, as far as they can be collected, either from his own knowledge or from respectable Glossarists; and also such terms of art, words from foreign languages, &c. &c. which often occur in English authors, but which are, nevertheless, not English words; such are *Ennui, au fait, literati, andante*, &c. &c.

That many words not now used, but found in our old authors, usually termed OBSOLETE words, would, in this last arrangement, find an appropriate place; where also such synonyms as *Sarum* for Salisbury, *Barum* for Barnstaple, *Salop* for Shrewsbury, &c. &c. would appear, an explanation of these being essential to a correct knowledge of our Language by Foreigners, as well as, indeed, by the natives of this country.

That, in order to render the Dictionary as complete as possible, he should prepare an original and compendious GRAMMAR for it, in which a series of *Lessons* would be given in which this part of the science of speech may be more effectually and expeditiously acquired.

That it would also contain a *History of the Language* itself, and a brief sketch of the principal Grammars and Dictionaries relating to it which have appeared since the invention of the art of printing.

That such a Dictionary should be published in ONE QUARTO VOLUME of about one hundred sheets; and also afterwards in OCTAVO. That such a work is a *Desideratum* in our Literature, and would, if published, obtain extensive circulation, and greatly contribute to a correct knowledge of our copious and excellent language.

That the work of your Petitioner on BIRDS, a work of considerable labour, and, he hopes, of some merit, has been for many months ready for the Press, and although, in other times, it would most probably have met with a ready acceptance among the Booksellers, not one to whom it has been offered will, in the present depressed state of trade, undertake its publication.

That this circumstance is in itself greatly distressing to your Petitioner with his scanty means of subsistence; and he cannot, therefore, however willing, afford to devote so much time (at least three years of incessant assiduity) as will be requisite to prepare such a Dictionary for the Press, unless he can be assured of pecuniary remuneration; and he has no reason for believing that any bookseller would, at the present time, be disposed to give an order for such a work.

Your Petitioner, therefore, most humbly prays that your Honourable House will be pleased to take the Premises into your consideration; and he solicits and hopes that, from the desire which your Honourable House has evinced for the encouragement of Literature, you will afford him such assistance and in such a way as to your Honourable House shall seem meet.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray.

JAMES JENNINGS.

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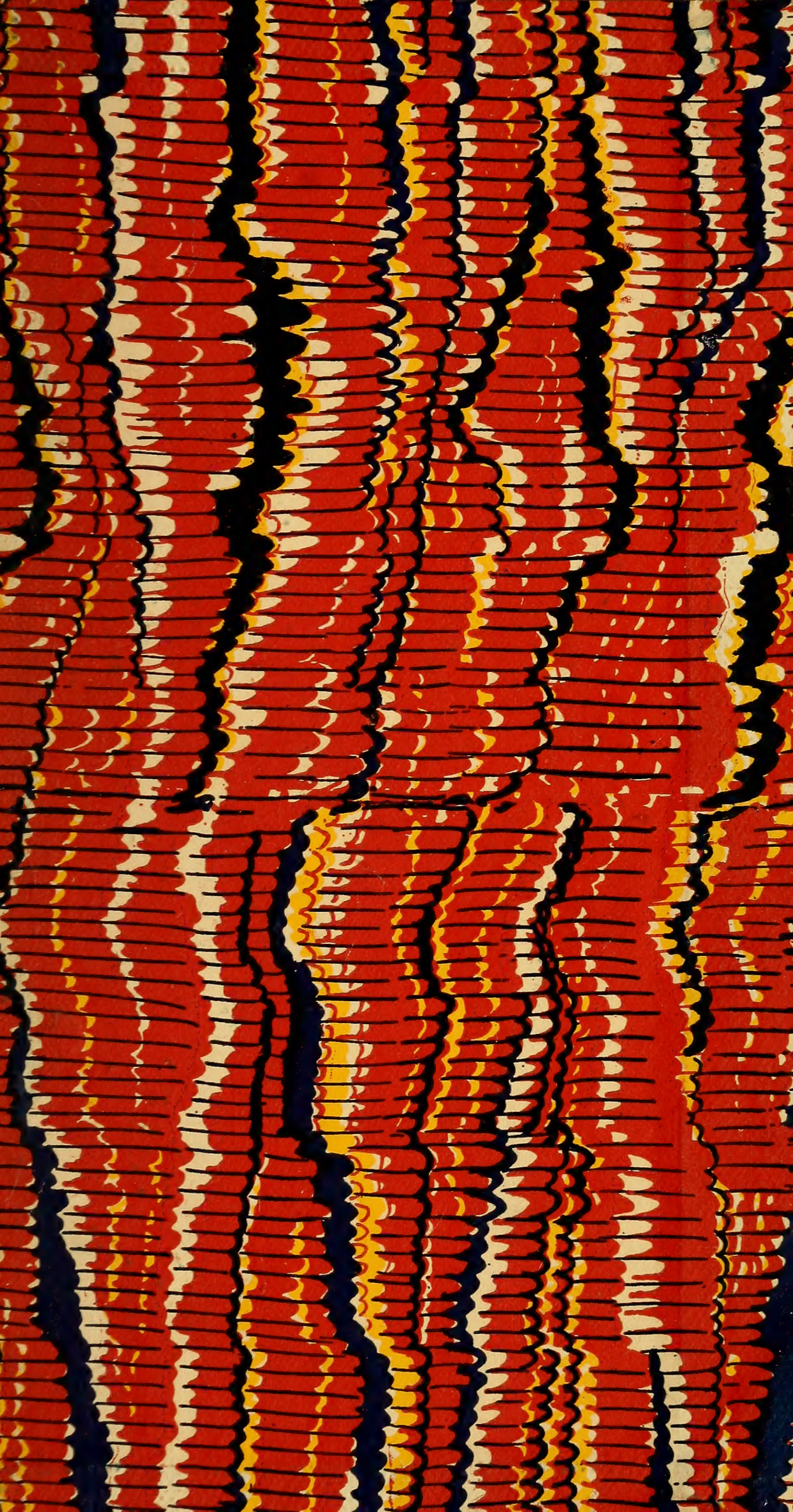

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